

The South African Philatelist

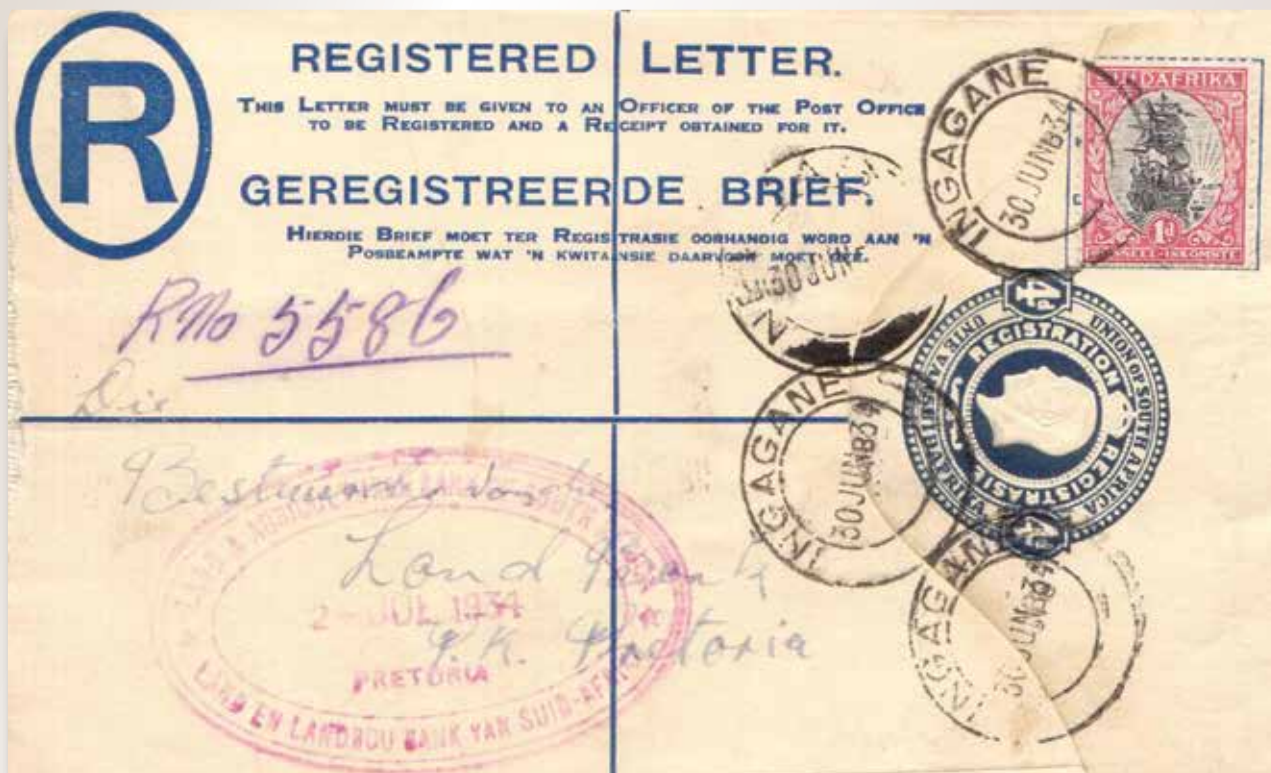
All about stamps



THE JOURNAL OF THE PHILATELIC FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA SINCE 1932

volume 93:1. 940

www.stamps.org.za



Registered at INGAGANE Station Post Office on 30 June 1934, this cover forms part of an interesting article on a new chapter in publicity and approach for the Union Post Office of South Africa.



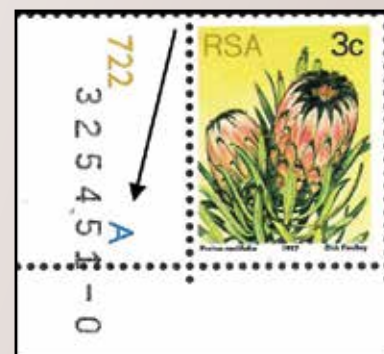
Publicity for the Union Post Office



'Post-Kantoo'
An OFS official seal



The 1929 International Geological Congress logo



'Protea Definitive' series
a step-by-step guide



ISSN 0038-2566

IMPORTANCE

Noun: the state or fact of being of great significance or value.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, MAFEKING SIEGE: 1900 2/- on 1/- green of British Bechuanaland, VARIETY TYPE 1 (SERIFFED) OVERPRINT (SG 11d). VF/U example of this rarity. A connoisseur's exhibition showpiece with only 3 recorded extant. Photo-certs: Brandon & Eichele. *(cv£38000).*

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Awards:

- o Large Silver Hafnia 1994,
- o Silver Bronze Pacific 1997,
- o Vermeil APS Stampshow 1999,
- o Large Silver Egoli 2001,
- o Federation Plaque 2004,
- o Silver España'06, Literature Award 2006,
- o Large Silver NZ Literature Exhib 2007,
- o Large Silver JAKARTA 2008,
- o Large Vermeil IPHLA 2012.



6 *The Officials of South Africa* now available from the PFSA Publications Committee.



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Picture Postcard of Impi warriors.



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My Big Fat Jewish Wedding!

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AS AN INSERT:

- The 2017 SAPDAPEX Prospectus and Preliminary Entry form*
- The 2017 BOFEX Prospectus and Entry form*

ERRATA: December 2016 issue

An error regarding the page numbering in the December 2016 issue - page numbering remained the same as per the previous issue of the journal.

We should also mention that SAPO has discontinued the complimentary mailing of the *SAP* which was advised to us after the journal was printed. We are sad to lose this support from SAPO for our hobby and hope it can be re-instated in the near future.

Editorial Board.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Alan Rose: roses@wol.co.za
Moiria Bleazard: bleazard@telkomsa.net
Robin Messenger: messenger.robin@gmail.com
Janice Botes Production Editor: janice@gdb.co.za
David Wigston: speedbird.imperial@gmail.com
Peter van der Molen RDPSA, FRPSL: molens@pixie.co.za

EDITORIAL CONSULTANTS

Alex Visser : alex.visser@up.ac.za
Chris Mobsby RDPSA, FRPSL: mobsbyc@mweb.co.za
Michael Wigmore RDPSA: dcrocker@lando.co.za
Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA: kamffer@netactive.co.za

FEDERATION SECRETARY

Jill Redmond RDPSA: pfsasec@mweb.co.za.
Tel: +27 (0) 11 917 5304

PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Janice Botes. fax to email: 086 697 4806



Correspondence to THE SA PHILATELIST should be addressed to the Editorial Board. Material received is most welcome and will be reviewed. Articles, letters and items of interest may be published and stand the chance of being rewarded with a PILOT writing gift.

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DOES ANYONE KNOW?

John Bleazard is puzzled by this triangular hand-stamp... Do you know a bit more about it?



A letter in response to:
 David Wigston's August 2016 BOOK REVIEW

SAA Commemorative Flight Covers - 60 Years of Flight

It was indeed serendipitous (as David said) when I arrived home from my philatelic society meeting, to find the August *SAP* had been delivered. His book review immediately caught my attention, because I had displayed these covers at that meeting.

I am no expert on aero-philately or for that matter on aero covers, but I do have a fair collection of SAA and SAAF covers, both starting from number 1, but neither is complete. This is just a bit of background to show my interest and because my eldest son was a pilot in SAAF and is now a senior pilot with SAA.

While I agree with David in principle, I would like to make the following comments: The flight time of 19 hours is almost correct, but is adjusted when travelling east to west because one is flying with the sun and time is made-up. This means the time difference is reduced and if you fly fast enough you can arrive at the same time you left (clock time the same day). As an example - the Concorde left London at breakfast time and arrived at JFK before breakfast.

In this case - JHB to JFK - the difference horizontally in time zones is 6 hours, but the flight is diagonal in a northwest direction, so the time approximates to $1.5 \times 6 = 9$ time zones, if the speed was 1,000 mph. However, the usual airspeed is about Mach 0.85 (say 600 mph), so the approximate time difference would be about $9 \times 1,000 / 600 = 15$ hours. This means an early morning cargo flight would arrive before midnight the same day, which could prove the JFK back-stamp was correct.

As regards the cabin crew knowing what a flight cover is, would be like asking a barman what is an algorithm? Maybe one in a hundred would know, so I am not surprised at the 'no' to the question. While this may cast doubts, the cabin crew doesn't know what cargo or mail is aboard.

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The Editorial Board reserves the right to accept or decline any articles, letters or any other material submitted for publication, and reserves the right to effect minor changes of spelling, punctuation, grammar and word choice without requesting prior permission from the author(s). For more substantial revisions, such as shortening or restructuring, either the Board will request the author(s) to effect such changes or will propose amendments to the author prior to publication - if no agreement can be reached then publication will be declined.




Postal History Symposium:
Philately and Postal History of Southern Africa
 Thursday, 4 May 2017. **FREE ADMISSION**

Please register at
www.spellmanmuseum.org
 at the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History and Regis College
 (College Hall 202), Weston, MA

Program:

<p>8:00AM - Exhibition opens at the Spellman Museum's Exhibit Hall</p> <p>9:00 - 9:30AM - Walk/drive over to College Hall room 202, at Regis College</p> <p>9:30AM - Opening remarks - Yamil H. Kouri Jr. and Tim Bartshe (moderator)</p> <p>9:45 - 10:25AM - 'Postal History of southern African Pioneers in World War II' by Peter Thy (California, USA)</p> <p>10:35-11:15AM - 'The Intersection of African Liberation and Philately in the Life of an Activist' by Ken Lawrence (Pennsylvania, USA)</p> <p>11:25AM-12:05PM - 'The NZASM (Transvaal rail-road)' by Tim Bartshe (Colorado, USA)</p> <p>12:05-1:00PM - Lunch at Regis College cafeteria (Dutch treat)</p> <p>1:00 - 1:40PM - 'The Philatelic Literature of Southern Africa' by Hugh McMackin (California, USA)</p> <p>1:50 - 2:30PM - 'Union of South Africa: The Darmstadt Trials of 1929' by Eddie Bridges (New York, USA)</p>	<p>2:40 - 3:20PM - 'The South African Border War: including the involvement of the Cubans 1966-1989' by Gawie Van der Walt and Johan Joubert (Cape Town, South Africa)</p> <p>3:30 - 4:10PM - 'The Development of the Cape Eastern Frontier 1864-1910' by Guy Dillaway (Massachusetts, USA)</p> <p>4:20 - 5:00PM - Closing remarks and discussion by Tim Bartshe - see you next year!</p> <p>Each person will be making a spoken, illustrated presentation and their talks will be followed by questions. The event marks the 30th Anniversary of the Philatelic Group of Greater Southern Africa. There will be an anniversary dinner in the evening. The PSGSA has always had a worldwide membership and early members included Uli Bantz, Dr. Jonkers, Marin Eichele among others.</p>
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PLEASE NOTE:

Enquiries regarding subscriptions and membership can be referred to Jill Redmond RDPSA at pfsasec@mweb.co.za Tel: +27 (0)11 917 5304

Contributions and letters for the publication must be forwarded to the Editorial Board of *The SA Philatelist*, PO Box 131600, Benoryn, 1504. South Africa or email: saphilatelist@iafrica.com

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Subscription and circulation: The annual subscription rate for 2017 in South Africa is R300.00. SADC countries, the subscription is R545.00 per year. International overseas, the subscription is R740.00. These prices all include postage via airmail. Should you have enquiries or wish to subscribe, please communicate with the Membership Secretary/Subscriptions Manager: P O Box 9248, Cinda Park 1463. email: pfsasec@mweb.co.za Tel: +27 (0) 11 917 5304

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When the commemorative covers were issued in their natty blue albums, the number actually amounted to 44 flight covers and one Jan Smuts Airport cover – 45 in total; starting with number 56 and ending on 99 – not 60. Whether these covers were actually flown is questionable, but this was to commemorate 60 years of SAA flight and that was the important point.

The JFK cover would have served the same purpose if the back-stamp was 2 Feb. If someone thought they were doing a favour or being clever, they were mistaken, because some are back-stamped 2, 3, 4, 5 and four were even stamped 7 Feb. (Q.E.D.)

Regarding this being a fraud, I doubt if it would stand up in court. Did anyone officially state categorically they would all be received at the destinations on 1 Feb? Who was responsible – the Philatelic Services, the agent, the airline, the airport manager, the postal service or some contractor?

I don't know if these covers were given away or distributed to societies, but I will try and find out. The latest issues of these covers is not known to me but the numbers are now over 100, so they continue to be issued. I shall endeavor to pursue more information about flight schedules and I will share anything that I find out.

In the meantime, I shall keep my natty blue file as an historic item (flown or not). I also applaud Xavier Laubscher for his on-going work in progress and wish him every success.

J.B. Rodgers,
Johannesburg



Editorial Board's choice
Winning Contributor

This issue's award of **PILOT** pen goes to Johan Joubert for his collaboration with Dr Gerhard Kamffer.

THE SA PHILATELIST

Publication closing dates for final submission and advertising material to avoid late delivery

- **April** 2017 Vol. 93: 2. 941 : 08/03/2017
- **June** 2017 Vol. 93: 3. 942 : 08/05/2017
- **August** 2017 Vol. 93: 4. 943 : 06/07/2017
- **October** 2017 Vol. 93: 5. 944 : 06/09/2017
- **December** 2017 Vol. 93: 6. 945 : 08/11/2017

Response to JB Rodgers

Being mathematically challenged it comes as no surprise that I had calculated the flight time of the flight Johannesburg – New York incorrectly. But the important point is that the flight left Johannesburg on the evening of 2 February 1994, arriving in New York on the morning of 3 February 1994. This makes the back stamp of 2 February 1994 for that flight cover possibly fabricated. JB Rodger's correspondence has made me reflect on what is a 'flight cover'? According to Wikipedia a "flight cover" is defined as being "mail carried on an inaugural flight of an airline, route or aircraft, normally postmarked with the date of the flight and often of the arrival destination proving it was actually carried on the aircraft and may have a special cachet". According to this definition the covers produced for SAA's 60th anniversary are then commemorative covers and not flight covers *per se*. The point here is that Philatelic Services misled the collecting public by promoting the set as being 'flight covers' when they are anything but. It is also worthwhile noting that Philatelic Services lodged no objection when a motion censuring their action was passed at the 1994 PFSA Congress held in the Benoni Town Hall. But the definition of a 'flight cover' as provided above does have limitations. What about the case of a cover to record a final flight? Does this not also qualify as being as being a 'flight cover'? And then we have the anomaly of Concorde flight covers; there are only six known occasions when Concorde carried mail. Does this mean the many hundreds of Concorde 'flight covers' are bogus? Maybe we need a rethink of the definition of a flight cover. Philatelic Services found it difficult to sell the albums at R200 a piece and eventually gave them away. It was not soon after that Philatelic Services stopped producing flight covers. The bottom line is that the covers that make up the SAA 60th anniversary set were never carried, as mail or as cargo, on the flights they purport to represent.

David Wigston.

BOOK RELEASES

The "Officials" of South Africa

by Robert M. Hisey and Ian A. Matheson

Bob Hisey and Dr Ian Matheson will be making their new publication available during the first quarter of 2017. The book will be published on a flash drive (memory-stik), as many modern computers do not feature a disk reader. The drive will also contain an electronic copy of the 1986 Union Handbook-Catalogue by Jack Hagger, an essential companion to understand the classification of the basic stamps.

This study builds on the previous major study of the topic described in the 1986 edition of *The Stamps of the Union of South Africa 1910 - 1961*, edited by Jack Hagger RDP/SA. Such a study is dependent on access to as much of the existing study material as one can find. Thanks to the technology of the internet, the authors have been able to combine their own international gold medal collections with those of most of the leading experts in the field in a manner not previously possible. This collaboration has allowed much new information to be described and illustrated.

The study is a compendium of knowledge, rather than a beautiful coffee table book. It is published in electronic format allowing for ease in updating, and also allows readers the facility to enlarge images on a computer screen for an in-depth study.

In general, the typography is identical to Hagger's. However a few changes have been made to accommodate some of the earlier



inconsistencies, especially for the issues with a diaeresis on the second 'E' of 'OFFISIEËL'. The sequence of forme changes is explained as the type became damaged from set to set, and occasionally had to be completely reset. Each of the resulting overprint varieties is illustrated. Numerous checklists are included to aid identification of the different sets and sheet positions.

Additional tools provided include a listing of side margin dimensions, which have been shown to be consistent within an overprint run, and an analysis of the colours used for each issue. The methodology is explained to identify colours using Photoshop® on the RGB (Red, Green, Blue) and the more useful HSB



(Hue, Saturation, Brightness) scales. Recorded cyclometer numbers for each print are listed where available. *The South African Philatelist* published print numbers for a number of the issues. Where available, these are shown, but unfortunately many were never reported. The archives of the South African Post Office contain a number of Official issues from 1949. These are also described in the book. The publication is available locally from Joh Groenewald RDP/SA, johgroen@mweb.co.za P/SA Publications Committee, for R400.

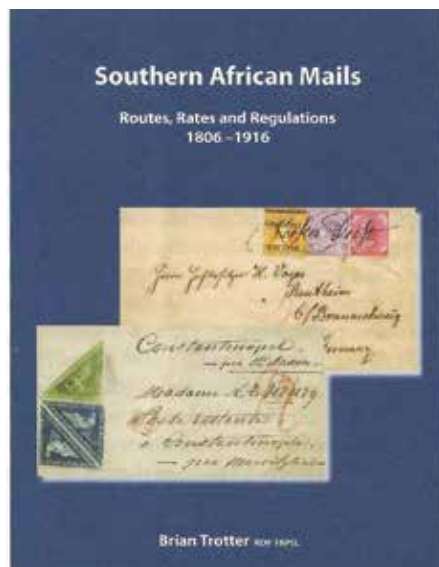
Also available in USA from the co-author Bob Hisey bobhisey@comcast.net for \$30 plus postage.

Southern African Mails, Routes, Rates and Regulations 1806 – 1916

Author: Brian Trotter RDP FRPSL
Obtainable from The Royal PS London
www.rpsl.org.uk

Price: £72.00 Plus Postage

As southern African countries developed northward, so did the need for reliable communication systems, that is, a postal infrastructure. This tome, almost 600 pages, details the development of such systems for each country as each was opened up. Beginning in 1806 with the British occupation of the Cape of Good Hope, it details the evolution of postal systems in countries northwards as far as British Central Africa. As countries became established and developed so did their postal systems until by 1916 all countries had their own routes, postal infrastructure and the necessary rules and regulations to implement and control these. The author includes the introduction of mail services in Rhodesia in the 1890s, and concludes his descriptions in 1916 by which time surface mail services were established and operating reasonably efficiently throughout the region. The concept and advent of air transport at this time for the distribution of mail over such a region would require a major rethink in the future.



The book is prescribed reading for all students of the postal history of southern African countries during this period. It is well illustrated and provides comprehensive information on individual country's systems, principal routes, letter rates and the main postal regulations prevailing. An investment and valuable reference for all collectors of postal history.

Comic Corner

Stamps that make us SMILE

Episode 39 of : *Errors on Stamps...*
by Volker Janssen, Fish Hoek Philatelic Society & Royal PS of Cape Town

WRONG VENUE



This stamp shows a commemorative issue of ANDORRA for the Olympic Summer Games in Moscow in 1980. The postal administration of the small principality should have known that skiing competitions never take place in Olympic Summer Games. The stamp was originally planned to be released as a separate issue for the Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid but erroneously the image was used for the Summer Games in Moscow. Quite embarrassing for a country which is located in the Pyrenees Mountains and familiar with winter sports...

Stanley Gibbons

New Catalogues

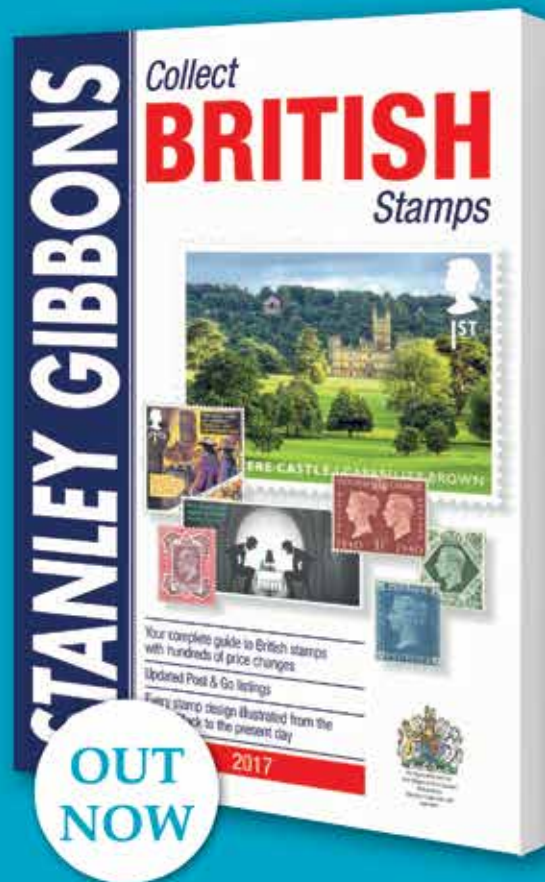
New Zealand

• 6th Edition 2016

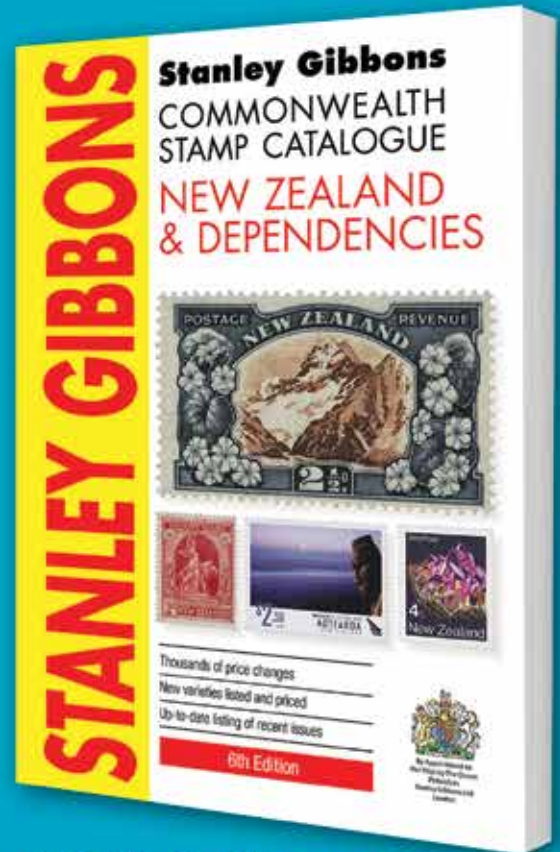
The Stanley Gibbons 2016 New Zealand Catalogue is a detailed and highly informative reference, ideal for any collector who specialises in the stamps of this area. This catalogue provides a comprehensive priced listing of all New Zealand stamps from the early colonial stamps of 1855 to July 2016. It includes Antarctic Expeditions, Tokelau and Ross as well as New Zealand's other dependencies.

- Prices have been extensively revised throughout the catalogue with hundreds of increases throughout all periods from the Chalon heads to modern issues. Some very significant increases have been recorded, making this catalogue a vital acquisition for all New Zealand collectors.
- A comprehensive index of commemorative and pictorial stamps since 1946 will allow individual stamps to be easily identified.

CODE: R2876-16 R650



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- All commemorative designs illustrated.
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- A helpful introduction with advice on how to build a collection, choose an album and mount stamps and guides to philatelic accessories and the Stanley Gibbons numbering system.
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CODE: R0289-17 R375

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Society Spotlight

Oilfilat - Sasolburg Philatelic Society

Compiled by Pierre Erasmus - Oilfilat



The annual Oilfilat - East Rand PS Inter-club Competition was once again held at the Sasolburg Public Library. The judging took place on Sunday, 30 October 2016 and the prize-giving on Saturday 5 November 2016. The judges were Marge Viljoen and Louwrence Erasmus (Fig.3).

This year the exhibition was dedicated to Jules Danneels, the late chairperson of Sasolburg Philatelic Society. The guests of honour were the Danneels family - Annetjies, Andre and George.

With the usual friendly rivalry between Sasolburg and East Rand Philatelic Societies - this year saw East Rand winning the inter-club competition (Fig.4). Jan Bakker won the Grand Prix trophy (Fig.5), but there were a number of other splendid exhibits, including two virtual exhibits, which attracted much interest.

Dr Eddie Pretorius, Chairperson of Sasolburg Philatelic Society (Fig.6), thanked everybody for their participation and effort in making this exhibition a great success in the club's 35th year of existence.

The inter-club competition between Oilfilat and what was then Boksburg Philatelic Society (now ERPS) started in 1992. The friendly rivalry between the two societies is now in its 25th year and marks a highpoint on the calendars of both societies.



Fig. 6: Dr Eddie Pretorius, Chairperson of the Sasolburg PS.

RESULTS

One Frame

			Award	Trophy
1953 Coronation of QEII	P Erasmus	Oilfilat	SB	
QEII 1961 Decimals	JW van Wyk	Oilfilat	V	Pretorius
SWA Postage Dues 1923-29	L Jacobson	Oilfilat	S	
Wêreld Posunie	C Rogers	ERPS	B	
Austrian Pneumatic Mail	J Bakker	ERPS	G	
SA GV postal stationery used in SWA	L Jacobson	Oilfilat	V	Danneels
Internee Mail during Japanese Occupation of DEI*	J Bakker	ERPS	G	
1961-68 RSA Half cent Kingfisher Issue	L Jacobson	Oilfilat	S	
POW Mail during Japanese Occupation of DEI*	J Bakker	ERPS	G	Grand Prix

Rest of Africa

History of the Bechuanalands to 1965	JW van Wyk	Oilfilat	G	CMGM
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Rest of the World

Indonesia	EJ Pretorius	Oilfilat	SB	
Kuba	EJ Pretorius	Oilfilat	SB	ISC

Thematic

Denarius	C Rogers	ERPS	S	
A Collection of Classics	C Rogers	ERPS	S	
Winter Sport	P Erasmus	Oilfilat	V	Anker
The Wheel	EJ Pretorius	Oilfilat	S	

Postal History

SWA Registered mail 1914-1960	L Jacobson	Oilfilat	V	
Airmails of World War II	DJ Wigston	ERPS	G	Frustration
Squared Circle Cancellations of DEI*	J Bakker	ERPS	G	
Postage Matters	EJ Pretorius	Oilfilat	SB	
Safe Arrivals	JW van Wyk	Oilfilat	V	Old Mutual

Specialised Studies

Union of South Africa - 3rd Definitive 1d & 2d	P Erasmus	Oilfilat	V	Oilfilat
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Open Section

Zimbabwe - Fauna & Flora on stamps	P Erasmus	Oilfilat	Non competitive	
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Cinderellas

Chinese Food Stamps	E Minnaar	ERPS	G	
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NOTE: The titles of some exhibits have been abbreviated because of space considerations.

* DEI - Dutch East Indies

Want to put your Society in the spotlight? Contact Janice Botes at janice@gdb.co.za



Fig 1: The Society's 35th birthday cake, presented to Annetjie Danneels.



Fig. 2: The Sasolburg Society always has an incredible spread of eats at the prize-giving.



Fig. 3: The judges, Marge Viljoen and Louwrence Erasmus providing feedback on the exhibition.



Fig. 4: Jimmy Mitchel receiving the Oilfilat Shield from Johan van Wyk, a senior member of Oilfilat, on behalf of ERPS as the inter-club winners for 2016.



Fig. 5: Jan Bakker receives the Grand Prix trophy from Johan van Wyk.

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Pl. 2 matched pair 1D blacks lettered (SD), in state one & state two of plate. (SG2). Both fine to very fine used with good four margins and showing red M.C.'s. (Ref. 90466) £600.00



Pl. 4 (SG2)(TC). Four very large margins, cancelled red M.C. Shows "LEFT SIDE WEAK" (Ref. 83664) £185.00



Pl. 2 Vertical strip (SG2)(ML NL OL). Four close to good margins cancelled red M.C.'s. (Ref. 83215) £1250.00.



Pl. 1A pair (RB RC) (SG3). Four close to good margins cancelled red M.C.'s. Stamps show 5 & 10 o'clock ray flaws. (Ref. 83373) £575.00.



Pl. 9 (MJ) (SG3). Four close to good margins, cancelled fine black M.C. Shows "O" flaw stage two, vertical guideline NE square & slightly square footed "J". (Ref. 90446) £185.00



Pl. 7 horizontal strip (SG3).(OI OJ OK OL). A good horizontal strip of four in a nice grey-black shade, OI touched at lower left and vertical bend cancelled neat black M.C.'s. (Ref. 83228) £1650.00



Pl. 8 (JA JB JC) (SG2). Used strip of three. JA very close to SW square otherwise fine four margins cancelled red maltese crosses. All stamps show "O Flaw". (Ref. 92855) £675.00



Pl. 4 (ND)(SG3). Thin spot but good to large four margins, cancelled red M.C. (Ref. 95759) £75.00



Pl. 1B matched pair 1d black (SG2) & 1d red (SG7) (FF). Both show 7 & 10 o'clock ray flaws and frame line extensions lower right. (Ref. 90466) £450



Pl. 5 (SG3) (BG). Very fine 1d grey/black with four close to large margins. (Ref. 83667) £200

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Phun with postmarks

by Alex Visser RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society

Email: alex.visser@up.ac.za



How are the name extensions Road, Rail and Station selected?

I regularly receive queries about postmarks with the extensions being used after, or before the date that the change in operating status was reported. The Hagen and Naylor 'Railway postal history of South Africa' gives an excellent description from which I have extracted and is given below as background.

In many cases road access to a town preceded the railway line. At the time of construction it was often impractical to build the railway through the town, and a station was built where the railway crossed the road, called "Road". As the station often was some distance from the town a small settlement developed. Place name similarity could cause confusion and station names incorporating 'Road' were phased out, eg, Porterville Road became Gouda.

In the early days of rail history a large number of agencies were established and the stationmaster or his staff, as they were employed and on site, carried out the duties of postmaster. Two types of offices were established at stations, the one being an agency staffed by railwaymen (SAR) and the other conventional post offices run by the GPO. In the agreements the latter had a turnover greater than the amount decided on in the agreement. This means that the jurisdiction could oscillate between the SAR and GPO, depending on turnover. The jurisdiction was primarily of administrative importance. Date stamps were fairly expensive and in many cases the old date stamp with the incorrect inscription was used even after administration changed. In many instances it took 12 months or more before a change was recorded and published.

From January 1932 it was decided that in order to conform to the usage of both the English and Afrikaans languages the names will be standardised to the extension 'station', abbreviated as 'Sta' instead of the 'Rail'. The change would take place as and when convenient. In cases where Station was already part of the name, the names of these offices were amplified by 'P.O.', 'P.K.' in Afrikaans. In many instances the old 'Rail' date stamps were used until an agency eventually closed down. These postal date stamps should not be confused with railway date stamps used for validating waybills. Since a date stamp was used to cancel stamps and provide an origin and date, incorrect use of railway date stamps often occurred.

I will use an enquiry from Dave Young to show the differences in date stamp inscriptions for Uniondale and Uniondale Road and Rail Office. Uniondale, in the Langkloof near Knysna, was renamed from Hopedale (Riet Valley) in 1876. The distance between Uniondale and Uniondale Road is 31km. Note that Uniondale Road Station was only renamed Barandas in 1960! Table 1 shows the operating dates of the two offices as well as the date stamps that were in use up to 1960, and their dates of use. A Barred Oval Numeral Cancellor No. 437 was used at Uniondale between 1884 and 1893.

Table 1. Date stamp use

Uniondale 1876 to current	
No. 1a	28 AP 1878 to 30 MR 1912
No. 1b	31 JY 1882 to 20 FE 1911
No. 1c	21 MR 1903 to 7 FE 1912
No. 1d	21 AP 1913 to 30 AP 1947
No. 1e	2 MY 1935 to 20 FE 1957
No. 1f	13 SP 1957 to 20 AP 1961
No. 1g	30 JA 1956 to 1 OC 1992
No. 1h	31 OC 1949 to 25 JA 1971
Uniondale Road 1903 to 1960	
No. 2a	6 JA 1907 to 12 FE 1909
No. 2b	26 MR 1908 to 13 MY 1924
No. 1c	15 DE 1938 to 12 JA 1956

It is evident that Uniondale was a far more active office than the Road. At times two and even three cancellers were in use. However, it appears as if during the depression period only one date stamp was use.



Fig.1 (a to h). Date stamps in use at Uniondale up to 1960.

Daar bestaan dikwels verwarring met die datums van kantore by stasies wat tussen spoorweg- en posjurisdiksie gewissel het en datumstempels wat oënskynlik die verkeerde naam toon. Aangesien staal datumstempels relatief duur was, is die bestaande stempel dikwels gebruik totdat dit nie meer diensbaar was nie, en dan vervang. Dus datum van jurisdiksie verandering en datumstempel gebruik het dikwels weinig met mekaar te make. Die reaksie op hierdie rubriek is verblydend, en verdere naam wat in al vier provinsies gebruik is het na vore gekom, naamlik Rietvlei en Springfield.

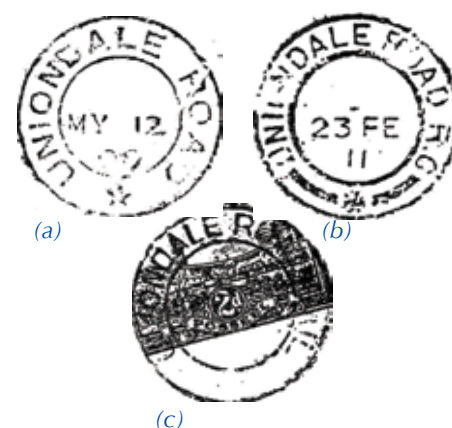


Fig.2 (a to c). Date stamps in use at Uniondale Road up to 1960.

The low level of activity at the Road office is also seen from the 14 year gap between the recorded dates of the second and third date stamps as material is relatively scarce.

Which office name existed in all four provinces before 1994?

I am pleased that this quiz engendered scratching of the head, as John Carter alerted me that Rietvlei existed in all four provinces although with spelling variations. I subsequently found that Springfield also meets the requirements. Any more offers?

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THE 1906 REBELLION

by Roger Porter, Cape and Natal Study Circle



The 1906 rebellion that erupted 110 years ago in Natal has commonly been called the Bambatha Rebellion (Thompson, 2001). It is widely considered as one of the most shameful and racially oppressive events in South Africa's history. 'On Active Service' mail from troops partaking in military activities at this time is generally scarce (with less than 110 covers and postcards recorded), and has received relatively little attention from philatelists (Porter, 2008). This article presents findings, some unexpected, based on an analysis of such mail sent by troops in the field. Possibly one of the more confusing aspects for the postal historian has been that Bambatha Rebellion mail originated from many civilian post offices situated in disparate parts and districts of the Colony. Importantly this rebellion was not confined to a specific region, but successive outbreaks erupted over a six month period following the declaration of martial law on 9 February 1906. It was over by 4 September 1906 when all military units had been demobilised. Therefore the sequence of military activities undertaken by the militia in Natal is described first.

Causes and background

Several factors precipitated the rebellion. Among these were economic, political, social and cultural factors. The economy of Natal had contracted in the aftermath of the Anglo Boer War. The government faced mounting deficits and resorted to increasing revenue through a Poll Tax of £1 on all unmarried males. This tax was in addition to the hut tax (14/-) for which young unmarried Zulu men were liable and was imposed regardless of economic status. Thus unemployed and underpaid men were unable to pay the tax given the prevailing hard economic times. 'Poll Tax' was translated into isiZulu as *imali yamakhanda* that is, 'a tax on a head / head tax' making it appear preposterous and incomprehensible. The tax focussed resentment and is regarded as the major factor which precipitated widespread resistance. Magistrates and the Commissioner for Native Affairs in Zululand reported resentment against the poll tax which became payable from 20 January. If it was not paid by 31 May 1906 the person would be guilty of an offence.

The suppression of the Rebellion was characterized by extreme force on the part of the Natal Government and its militia in an environment of widespread racial hostility and was heavily criticised in the British Parliament (Guy, 2005). This is

also evidenced by messages contained in correspondence that has survived. Historian Jeff Guy ascribes this to an ideology of white racism amongst British imperialists which reached its height at this time.

The Colonial Government had passed legislation that provided for a militia of Active and Reserve Units in order to secure its own defence. Regiments had been equipped and trained along modern European lines. Given the prevailing economic depression the strength of the Active militia was cut and the Reserves neglected. Natal therefore had to rely on outside help against the rebellion. The Transvaal provided two mounted and two foot units, and the Cape sent mounted and machine-gun units.

The rebel leaders tried to re-impose the old traditional military system that called up men for military service but which had met its demise by previous political interventions

Inspector Hunt and Trooper Armstrong were killed.

Panic seemed to sweep through the European population of Natal. Measures for reprisal and defence were then adopted. The Governor Sir Henry McCallum declared martial law on 9 February. The militia was mobilized under the command of Colonel Duncan McKenzie: a Field Force comprised of the Natal Carbineers, Natal Royal Regiment, and C Battery of the Natal Field Artillery, marched from Pietermaritzburg on 10 February 1906 and arrived at Richmond on the 11th. A second party of Natal Carbineers and Border Mounted Rifles arrived at Elandskop. The mounted troops advanced and searched the Enon Forest. Two rebels were taken prisoner, faced a court martial trial and were then executed (Fig.1).

Fig.1: Postcard endorsed 'Mackenzie Field



of the Natal Government. However, lacking training, modern weapons and logistical support they could not be expected to defeat an enemy in battle. Leaders recognised they could only succeed by guerrilla warfare but this form of fighting was alien to the Zulu.

Rebellion, murder and defiance: Richmond, Ixopo and Umtwalumi

A farmer who had taken his workers to pay the tax at Camperdown in January 1906 was murdered. Defiant protests occurred at several other Magistrates' Offices, and at the Mapumulo Magistrate's Office several chiefs unanimously refused to pay the tax.

The Government could not condone such defiance and on 8 February a detachment of police from Richmond was sent to apprehend the leaders. On the farm Trewirgie they found the suspects but a fight ensued and Sub-

Force' cancelled Richmond 2.45 PM FE 15 06. Message reads: Left Hoskins farm yesterday morning and went to the great bush [Enon Forest] by Gordon's farm. We remained on borders of bush while Mveli's natives (about 1000) beat bush. Found traces of the outlaws and came where they had slept the night before but could not find them. Bush about 3 miles long and very dense. Shot two prisoners who had been caught some days before. Heavy mist and rain came down and we had a very rough ride into here last night, down steep mountains, could not see more than a few yards in front of horse nearly lost [it] once or twice. Perfectly well and fit. Had a blow out at the hotel last night. First square feed I have had. Bertie.

On receiving reports, Colonel Bru-de-Wold Commandant of Militia, ordered McKenzie to move into Natal's southern and coastal areas. The Field Force left Richmond and proceeded via Springvale, Highflats to Ixopo (Fig.2) where Chief Miskolfeli was fined



Bambatha kaMancinza who had been deposed as chief of the Amazondi also defied the Government over payment of the poll tax. In April he attempted to regain his chieftaincy and Magistrate J. W. Cross of Greytown accompanied by Natal Police went to investigate reports that Bambatha had seized power. They stopped at the Impanza Hotel and Inspector Rose set out to investigate but was attacked by Bambatha (Fig.7). The police party fled towards Keate's Drift taking the people from the hotel with them. The hotel and a nearby farm house were looted. Colonel Mansel sent 151 officers and men to Keate's Drift on 4 April. It was after dark when

Fig.2: Cover endorsed 'On Active Service' cancelled Ixopo MR 1 06 addressed to Pietermaritzburg and counter signed A S Langley Lt. N C [Natal Carbineers].

220 head of cattle and 43 of his followers faced a court martial trial. Seven were sentenced to death for insurrection. Thirty three others received sentences of a mix of flogging, imprisonment and removal from the district.

McKenzie's Field Force left Ixopo, marching via High Flats Umzinto, Ifafa and arrived at Umtwalumi on 17 March (Map1). Chief Charlie Fynn of the Izinkumbi with some 1000 people met with McKenzie who paraded his troops, imposed a fine of 1,500 head of cattle and confiscated arms. Thirty three persons faced a court martial (Fig.3) five being sentenced to death. However the death sentences given at both Ixopo and Umtwalumi were later commuted. The danger had now passed, the Field Force was demobilised and the troops entrained for home on 31 March 1906.

Mail from the McKenzie Field Force on active service for 49 days from 10 February to demobilisation on 31 March 1906 includes postcards, covers and letters from seven localities. These are, Elandskop, Ixopo, Richmond, Springvale, Umtwalumi Rail and Umzinto (Porter, 2005). Sallo Epstein produced five coloured postcards showing scenes related to this period.



Map 1. McKenzie Field Force operations in the south of Natal.

Action at Mapumulo and Keate's Drift

Disturbances had also broken out at Mapumulo district. The Umvoti Mounted Rifles, Natal Mounted Rifles and Natal Naval Corps were mobilized on 24 February 1906 under command of Col. G. Leuchars. They arrived at the Mapumulo magistracy and were reinforced by the Durban Light Infantry and 'A' battery of the Natal Field Artillery (Fig.4). Defences were constructed at Greytown (Fig.5).

Chief Ngobizembe was deprived of his position, his people were fined 1,200 cattle and 3,500 sheep and goats. Chiefs Messeni and Swaimana produced the men demanded of them. The Field Force was demobilised on 16 March after 21 days of duty. On Active Service mail has been recorded cancelled at Krantzkop, Mapumulo, and Stanger (Porter 2005 and 2006). They are the scarcest items of postal history associated with the Rebellion (Fig.4). Sallo Epstein postcards are also known from this uprising (Fig.6).



Fig.3: Sallo Epstein postcard showing Col Royston questioning Chief Charlie Fynn (a relative of the Natal pioneer Henry Francis Fynn) as to the role his people took in the recent disturbances in the Umtwalumi area.



Fig.4: Stampless postcard from a member of the Natal Mounted Rifles at Mapumulo MR 1 06 endorsed 'Active Service' addressed to Pinetown with arrival cancellation 2 MR 06 and 1d tax mark. The postcard was taxed as it had not been endorsed by the unit commanding officer and thus did not comply with PO 'Active Service' Regulations.

the column came to a point where about 150 rebels lay in ambush. The column was attacked and a brief but desperate fight ensued in which four police were killed and four wounded. They then proceeded to Greytown without further incident.

That none of the rebels was killed was attributed by them to having been specially 'doctored' (with muti) against the bullets of the police. They saw this as a victory; the medicine and King Dinuzulu's name were seen as potent recruiting factors thereafter.

The Government was immediate in its response. On 7 April the Umvoti Mounted Rifles were mobilized under the command of Colonel Leuchars. However Bambatha with a small band of supporters had crossed the Tugela River into Zululand and moved to hide in the Nkandhla forest.

The chiefs living in this area were called upon to apprehend Bambatha, but the rebellion attracted many Zulu people who were actively recruited. It was obvious that the police would not be able to cope with a larger outbreak of hostilities. The Native Affairs Commissioner in Zululand, Sir Charles Saunders, made Empandhleni (Nkandhla) his headquarters and Colonel Mansel's police arrived on 12 April. A supply convoy escorted by the Natal Carbineers arrived on 25 April thus securing the magistracy.

Operations in Zululand

A Zululand Field Force commanded by Colonel McKenzie (Fig.8) was formed and sent to Dundee arriving on 1 May. He was in overall command of all units which also included a column at Dundee comprising the Transvaal Mounted Rifles and Royston's Horse that had been recruited from outside

Field Force under Col. Leuchars and the Helpmekaar Field Force under the command of Major Murray-Smith were formed and together with the Zululand Field Force made converging movements on the area occupied by rebel forces. In a series of demonstrations the Umvoti Field Force prevented further rebellious activities. By the end of the first week in May, magistracies had been secured and forces positioned to prevent the outbreak of the rebellion in other districts.

Search operations were undertaken by the Zululand, Umvoti, and Helpmekaar Field Forces in the Nkandhla and Umsinga areas between 10 and 24 May. They found places inhabited by rebels, sympathisers



Fig 5: Defensive wire entanglements and sand bags at the Greytown Post Office.

the Colony. The Transvaal Government had offered Natal 500 mounted and equipped men who formed the Transvaal Mounted Rifles under the command of Lt. Col. W. F. Barker.

The Zululand Field Force left Dundee on 3 May arriving at Empandhleni on the 8th. Meanwhile, a reconnaissance by Colonel Mansel towards Cetshwayo's grave in the Nkandhla Forest was attacked by a rebel force and was defeated (Fig. 9). The Umvoti

and dependants. Homesteads were burnt, livestock seized, and food supplies destroyed. Between 25 and 31 May the Zululand force undertook a series of drives in the Nkandhla forest. Mackay's presence at Nqutu had the effect of forcing the rebels into Nkandhla. On 28 May, Leuchar was attacked by the rebels who suffered a bloody repulse, but being far from his base he could not follow up.



Fig.6: Postcard with caption 'The Native Rebellion. Chief Gobazembi and his brother Paulo under guard'.



Fig.7: Postcard with contemporary photograph entitled 'Bambata and impi'.



Fig.8: Colonel Sir Duncan McKenzie, K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D.

The drives in the Nkandhla Forest continued with varied results. On the 29th, 40 rebels were killed and 400 cattle were taken. On 30 June, 21 rebels were killed and 40 cattle and goats captured, on 1 June 300 cattle were taken, and on the 3rd a squadron of Royston's Horse was ambushed and four men were killed and 11 wounded as well as 140 rebels killed and over 200 cattle captured.

Battle of Mome Gorge

Following a visit to King Dinuzulu, Bambatha undertook aggressive displays of force on the Natal border in an attempt to recruit people. However the drives undertaken by the Field Force had two effects on the rebels. Those hiding in Nkandhla forest called on those at Macala for help. They left their camp and moved to join Bambatha at Mome. Field intelligence reported the movement and McKenzie ordered Barker to move to block the mouth of the gorge while his column marched down a ridge to surround the rebels. The result was the virtual destruction of the rebels on 10 June in the Battle of Mome.

The battle ended Bambatha's role in the rebellion; he and several of his leaders had been killed together with some 500 men, and an even larger number wounded.

Mail from the Zululand, Umvoti and Helpmakaar Field Forces

The major military activity during the rebellion was in Zululand from early April up to 29 June 1906 and therefore the majority of mail associated with the event was cancelled there (Map 2). 'On Active Service' mail was from members of either the Zululand, Umvoti or Helpmakaar field forces. Covers and postcards have been recorded from 15 regiments or units with the majority being cancelled at Nkandhla, Dundee, Nqutu and Helpmakaar (Porter, 2006). Several series of illustrated postcards were produced by Hallis and Company of Port Elizabeth as black and white photographs, by St A. Wilson on glossy white board, or as a series of 'comic' postcards illustrated by either J. E. M. Brom or by H. H. Grellier.



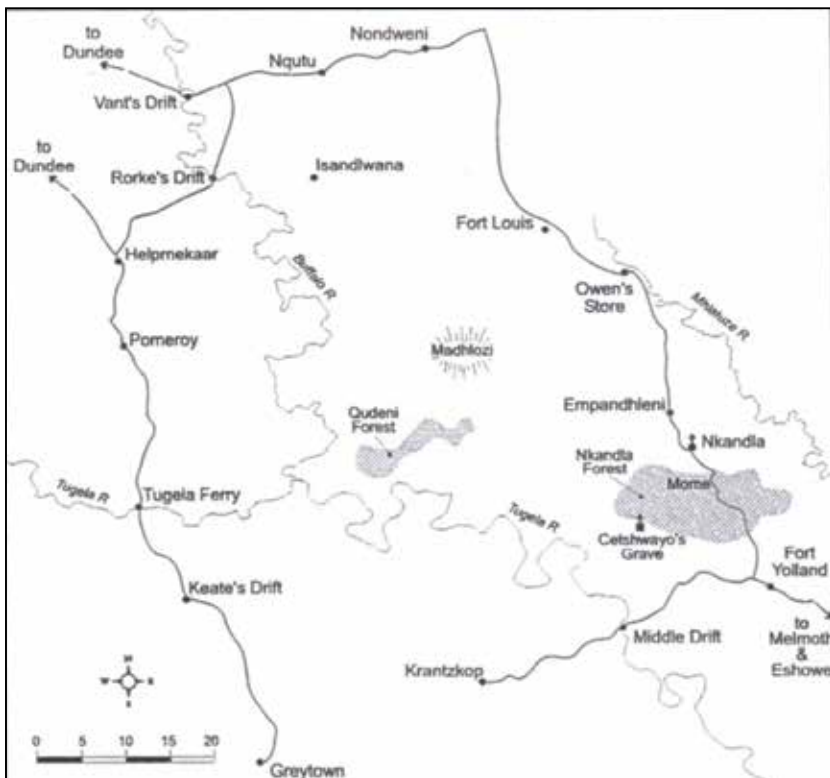
Fig.9: On Active Service cover with enclosed letter cancelled Nkandhla Zululand MY 5 06 addressed to Pietermaritzburg backstamped on arrival on MY 10 06, endorsed R M Tanner Lt. O.C. J Squad N. C. Part of the letter reads "Two squads had gone out and ventured further than on previous days and our scouts came into contact with the enemy. It appears that the natives allowed our advanced guard to pass them before they showed themselves. As they arose a small body of perhaps 50 natives appeared in front. The rest of the squadron was only about 100 yards away and the advanced sections retired onto the main body, often dismounting and firing a few shots. I believe the scouts shot four natives but I am not sure that they were all killed or not but some of the assegais came very close. They destroyed several kraals and brought in a few cattle. We spent yesterday in making a similar demonstration but went into a different valley. We burnt many huts and brought in a few cattle."

Rebellion breaks out at Mapumulo

Although the rebellion in Zululand was over and forces withdrawn, the rebellion had moved south of the Tugela River to the Mapumulo area. On 18 June a trading store and house at Thring's Post were looted and the storekeeper killed and a convoy was ambushed at the Otimati river. To re-enforce the Natal Mounted Rifles, Durban

Light Infantry and Natal Police, columns under the command of Mansel, Dick, and Mackay were ordered to proceed to Krantzkop arriving there at the end of June. The Transvaal Mounted Rifles under Colonel Wools-Sampson moved to Lower Tugela to guard against the rebellion again spilling over into Zululand. Leuchars sent the Natal Mounted Rifles, Border Mounted Rifles and Natal Carbineers to Mapumulo. He marched into Messeni's ward on the 27th where his forces demonstrated their superiority in a pitched battle at Peyana where about 70 rebels were killed and only one trooper was wounded.

McKenzie decided that priority was to be given to crushing the Qwabe rebels as Messeni had the largest impi. He ordered another convergent movement with three columns under his command and a fourth under Colonel Barker. McKenzie concentrated his forces at Thring's Post. On 3 July the four columns advanced on Messeni's kraal and rebel forces opposed Mackay's, Wools-Sampson's (Battle of Mpumulwana), and Barker's (Battle of Ponjwana), columns. Nevertheless the columns came together near their objective and Messeni's kraal was destroyed. The rebels fled the district. On 5 July these forces returned to Thring's Post.



Map 2. Are of operation of the Zululand, Umvoti, and Helpmakaar Field Forces.

'On Active Service' mail entered the postal system at several towns namely; Kearsney, Krantzkop, Ginginhlovo (Fig.10), Mapumulo, Stanger and Tongaat from members of eight regiments or units from 20 June to when most units were demobilised (Porter, 2006).

Final operations

On 14 July the rebellion was practically over. Offensive operations were stopped and surrenders encouraged. From 15 to 27 July regiments and reserves were either demobilised or relocated to undertake garrison duties at various small towns e.g. Ndwedwe, Mapumulo, Kearsney, and Stanger.

On the 30th mounted units were ordered to demobilize. The Transvaal Mounted Rifles returned home by train (Fig.11). Some units particularly the Natal Carbineers, were retained in Special Service Squadrons to patrol the Mapumulo, Tongaat, and Empandhleni districts. Royston's Horse was given the responsibility of final pacification at the end of August and was posted to Krantzkop. By 4 September 1906 all units had been demobilised.

Collection of taxes continued during the rebellion period, and both captured and surrendered rebels were tried under martial law. Natal forces had lost 36 men killed and about 67 men had been wounded. Of the approximately 4,000 rebels, an estimated 2,652 had been killed (Thompson 2001).

Mail sent during the Bambatha Rebellion

'On Active Service' mail from the Bambatha Rebellion differs from such mail associated with that of the Anglo Boer War from two aspects. Firstly, postal regulations required that for mail to be carried free of postage from soldiers on active service it was to be endorsed

by the commanding officer giving his name, rank and regiment. These requirements were not strictly adhered to during the Zulu Rebellion. Mail was at times either not endorsed or was endorsed by the writer himself. This practice was usually condoned by the postal authorities, and may have been because postal staff would have been sympathetic to the men fighting in the field.

Secondly, although censorship of military mail had been strictly applied as recently as the Anglo Boer War of 1899 – 1902, there is no evidence of censorship of mail during the period of the Zulu Rebellion. This is some what surprising as messages on postcards and in letters often included very explicit details of sensitive information that would be highly informative to an enemy. For example, details such as the number of troops, routes and times of marches, strength of forces employed including guns and wagons, camp defences, morale, the estimated strength and location of enemy forces. Such details would normally not have been permitted under martial law and such information that could aid the enemy would have been deleted or removed by a censor.

The *laissez-faire* approach to matters of censorship by the militia was possibly due to a realisation that there was no need for such controls even though



Fig. 10: 1906 'On Active Service' postcard authorised by W E Welch Sergt D LI (Durban Light Infantry), cancelled Ginginhlovo JY 7 06 addressed to Vryheid with arrival strike 9 JY 06).



Fig. 11: Postcard showing the review of the volunteers at the Wanderers, Johannesburg dated 22 July 1906 published by Braune and Levy, Johannesburg



Fig. 12: (below) OHMS cover cancelled Nkandhla JU 16 / 06 addressed to England with Natal and UK tax marks. Back stamped Durban and London JY 14 06. Facsimile cachet of Capt. C. Hugh Mullins, Brigade Major, Royston's Horse. ZFF.

mail was transmitted through a civilian postal system. The Natal Post Office employed many Zulu workers, many of whom would have been illiterate. Nevertheless some could read and may possibly have been supportive of the rebellion. The risk that Zulu sympathisers would pass on such strategic information received no attention. However it is apparent that the Zulu rebels lacked a sufficiently sophisticated intelligence system that could have used such information in planning offensive or retaliatory action.

Free franking privilege was not granted to members of the Natal Police. Such mail is rare and can be identified only by the content of a message. Mail endorsed 'On Active Service' and without stamps addressed to destinations beyond the borders of Natal was taxed by the postal authorities (Fig.12). Examples seen include mail addressed to the Cape, Transvaal and UK. Few items of official mail have been

recorded and may be identified if the cover is endorsed or printed 'On His Majesty's Service' and has a facsimile signature of the office of the person officially designated by the post office (Fig.12). The rarest and most difficult Zulu Rebellion mail to find is that sent from one regiment to another, that is, inter-regimental mail (Porter, 2006).

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THE POSTAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, CIRCA 1935

A new chapter in terms of publicity and approach for the Union Post Office
by Dr Gerhard Kamffer RDPSA, Pretoria Philatelic Society and Johan Joubert, AFV(Pretoria)



THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE IN 1934

The introduction into the Post Office organisation, in August 1934, of a Public Relations or Publicity Office, marked another step forward in the gradual process of commercialising the Union Post Office (fig.1). At that stage there were officials in the Post Office who felt that it was not in the nature of a civil service department to advertise. In the end there was agreement that the adoption by government departments of publicity and advertising ideas was recognised as a natural and indeed inevitable consequence of the

for 1935 uttered the following positive words: *"The Post Office is truly a large business organization and if its officials are compelled to curb that spirit of adventure which to some is one of the attractions of commercial life, if it offers no 'glittering prizes' and little opportunity for the use of 'sharp words', it does afford an interesting and extremely useful career to those who value more than wealth the satisfaction derived from public service."* In all of this the PMG was supported by the then Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and Public Works, Senator the Hon. C.F. Clarkson OBE (fig.2).

in a pamphlet with the heading *'Safeguard your mail'* it was indicated that the post office handles a total of 350,000,000 letters and parcels every year of which 3,300,000 were undelivered. This amount of mail emanated from a total of 3,212 Post Offices open in 1935 all over the Union and from sources outside.

A POST OFFICE GUIDE AND POST OFFICE SERVICES PAMPHLET AND OTHER CARDS ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC

The Union Post Office went out of its way to inform and educate the public of the different services provided by the Post Office by means of the following publications:

- Post Office Guide. This was made available to the public published in Afrikaans and English obtainable at any post office at 6d a copy (fig.3).
- Post Office Services Booklet. This was a summarised version of the



Fig.1: The letterhead of the Public Relations or Publicity section of the Post Office based at the Head Office in Pretoria.

development of recent years. This especially applicable in a section of the government service such as the Post Office which is a commercial concern whose tentacles reach all parts of the country and whose activities touch at some time the life of every member of the community.

This was actually an unexpected move under difficult socio-economic conditions prevailing in the Union of South Africa in the 1930s. A leading economist observed at that stage that a few appreciate how poor South Africa as a mining and agricultural country was before the sharp rise of the gold price in 1933. In 1929 the economy suffered a setback in the Depression which started with the crash of the New York Stock Exchange. South African exports plummeted and a crisis in economic confidence developed on a scale never experienced before. In South Africa this was compounded by a prolonged drought. The price of maize, the major agricultural product dropped by half between 1929 and 1939. Faced also by a worldwide depression farmers were challenged like never before. On 20 September 1931 Britain announced that it was going off the gold standard. Fears that South Africa would abandon the gold standard caused many investors to send large sums of money out of the country.

Despite all of this the Postmaster General of the Union, Mr. H.J. Lenton, in the PMG Report

The PMG further added: *"I do not think that anybody to-day has a fuller realisation of the part that the Post Office plays in the life of the community than I and my senior officers. We realise that every phase of domestic, social and business life is dependent in some way upon the convenience provided by the department and we are extremely anxious that the public shall obtain the utmost possible benefit from these services at the smallest possible cost to themselves, but, as I have said, there is a point beyond which, in its desire to serve the public, the department may not go"*.

The functions of the publicity department were many and varied. It had to inculcate in all branches of the Post Office a spirit of real public service. Furthermore it was the duty of this newly formed department to inform the public about Post Office laws and regulations and the full spectrum of services provided by the Post Office. To achieve all of this the Post Office started an advertising campaign with newly designed colourful brochures, distributed leaflets and pamphlets to educate the public and participated in agricultural and other types of shows. Informative articles, about the services provided by the Post Office, were also published in the press.

The aim of this article is to explain and illustrate this new approach of the Union Post Office circa 1935. At that stage the Post Office was already a massive organisation and



Fig.2: Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and Public Works, Senator the Hon. C.F. Clarkson OBE.

Post Office Guide of most of the services provided by the Post Office .

- Post Office Guide for Natives. The Post Office also catered for the needs of Africans by providing a booklet in the following African languages: 'Seshuana, Sesotho, Zulu, Xhosa' (figs.4&5).

A card with the message: *"It will assist the Post Office if you will, as far as possible post your letters early in the day"* was also distributed to customers. In the accompanying circular, it was indicated to postmasters that cards must be distributed to retail-stores and business houses whose letters are posted in large

quantities late in the afternoon of each day. Furthermore a special envelope was designed and distributed for the purpose of posting the different leaflets to clients of Post Office.

AIRMAIL SERVICES

Hasso Reisener indicated that on 1 February 1934 the Government took over Union Airways, and on 1 February 1935 also S.W.A. Airways, to establish the South African Airways. On 1 January 1935, the rates of postage of air mail letters and postcards within the Union were reduced from 3d. per 1/2oz to 1 1/2d per 1/2oz on letters and from 1 1/2d. to 1d. on postcards.

Since the air service was now under control of the Union Government and the Post Office had full responsibility for handling mail, more attention was paid to publicising the airmail facilities. Efforts were made to make the public more conscious about the airmail services provided by the Post Office (figs.6&7).

To give effect to this the Post Office in 1935 embarked on holding exhibitions in various centres to draw attention to their activities and to make the public aware of the advantages of using the airmail services. Besides participating in agricultural and other shows to showcase their postal facilities, the Post Office also staged separate Post Office exhibitions in some of the main towns like Johannesburg, Cape Town and East London (figs.8&9).

POST OFFICE EXHIBITIONS DURING THE YEARS 1934-1936

The Post Office formed part of the Rand Ideal Homes Exhibition in Johannesburg over the period 6 to 15 September 1934. At this exhibition sponsored by *The Rand Daily Mail* newspaper the Post Office exhibited modern developments in telephony and telegraphy. A special date stamp was used at the exhibition (fig.10).

The Post Office organised a special exhibition in the Fletcher & Cartwrights Tea Room in Cape Town from 7 to 18 May 1935 where a special temporary post office had been opened. At this exhibition postal services in general and the air mails were publicised. Leaflets were handed out advertising special souvenir post cards that were handed out free of charge. Most of these post cards were sent overseas making use of the new postal rates known as the 1/2d 'All Up Air Mail' rate. A special date stamp was also used during the exhibition (figs.11&12).

An Airmail propaganda cachet reading: "Sent by airmail to demonstrate the rapidity of the air

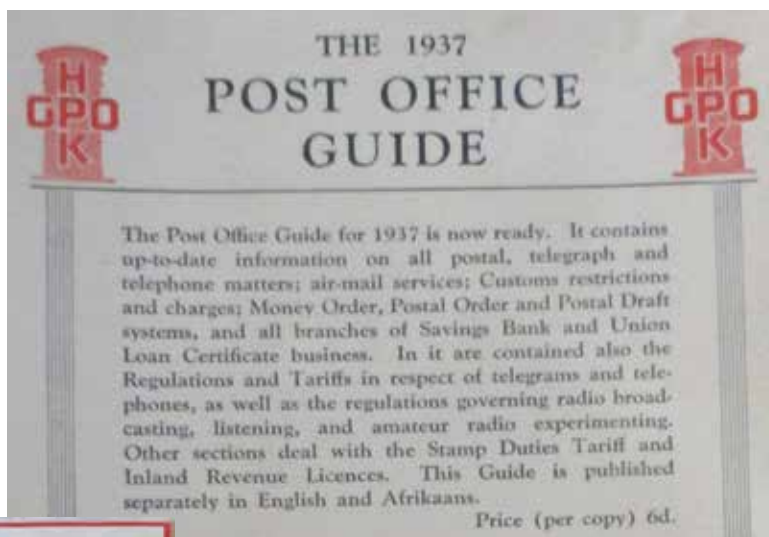


Fig.3: The introductory page of *The 1937 Post Office Guide* that was available for 6d.



Fig.4: Pillar Box logo indicating that the Post Office also catered for the Black clients in their own languages.



Fig.5: Front page of a *Post Office Guide* printed in Sesotho.



Fig.6: Brochure issued to make the public more aware about the airmail services provided by the Union Post Office.

services/Per lugpos versend om die snelheid van die lugdiens te laat blyk" was also introduced in September 1935. This new innovation was done in collaboration with the South African Airways to advertise the

airmail services. At certain main centres about 20 to 30 letters were selected at random from the normal mail and included with the airmail letters.

The Post Office also participated in the Radio Exhibition show that was held from 16 to 26 October 1935 in Johannesburg. This special exhibition sponsored by *The Star* newspaper included a Post Office exhibit to publicise their postal facilities, especially radio communications and airmails.

The Post Office also organised a separate exhibition in East London from 2 December 1935 to 31 January 1936. This exhibition was organised on similar lines to the others previously held. Special post cards were handed out and a special date stamp used similar to the Cape Town one (fig.13).

A SELECTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE

A selection of advertisements, booklets and pamphlets advertising the various services provided by the Post Office since 1935 is discussed and illustrated:

Business Reply Service As indicated in the PMG Report for 1935, a modern facility at that time, known as the Business Reply Service was introduced on 1 April 1934. By means of this service advertisers and business firms etc. could send out with their circulars unstamped envelopes or cards which their clients may use for their replies. The replies are posted unstamped and postage, plus a small additional charge, is collected from the original sender (figs.14&15).

Registered Mail The registration system was an important service provided by the Post Office to secure the transmission of articles



Fig.7: Unloading air mail from *Great Britain and Europe* at the *Rand Airport* in *Germiston* circa 1935.



Fig.8: Post Office stall at the Ideal Homes Exhibition in Johannesburg during August – September 1934 (Source: *The Post Office 1910-1935*, p. 127).

committed to the post. Whilst compulsory registration was insisted upon in respect of articles containing coins, precious stones, jewellery, bank notes and uncrossed postal orders exceeding 1s in value, the use of this system was recommended for all packets which contained articles of value.

The charge for registration was 4d., in addition to the usual postal charges, and in the event of the loss of a registered article, the sender is under certain circumstances, paid compensation up to an amount of £2 in respect of International and £5 in respect of Inland registered items (figs. 16,17).

International Reply Coupons As all postal articles were required to be franked with the postage stamps of the country in which they were posted, an International Reply coupon was introduced, by means of which senders of letters to other countries were enabled to supply their correspondents abroad with stamps to cover the postage for replies.

The exchange value of an International reply Coupon was an amount sufficient to cover the postage on a letter weighing up to one ounce exchanged between any of the countries which were members of the International Postal Union (fig.18).

Householder Circulars Printed matter in covers addressed merely 'The Householder' (with or without place of delivery) and bearing the words 'Postage Paid' printed or handstamped where the postage would normally be affixed was accepted for delivery within the Union of South Africa only, at the rate of postage prescribed for printed papers less a discount of 25 percent.

Express Delivery Service The express messenger service was utilised for the rapid dispatch or collection of local letters or parcels, for the special delivery at their destinations, of letters or parcels which have been sent by post in the ordinary way. The charges were roughly at the rate of 6d. per mile travelled by the special messenger, plus train, taxi or tram fare as might have been necessary (fig.19).

Parcel Post The following was indicated in the Post Office guide regarding Parcel Post: "Parcels must not be posted in a letter box but must be handed in to the Post Office counter. Parcels must be posted at least a quarter of an hour before the time for closing the mail by which the are intended to go forward. A certificate of posting can be obtained at a cost of one penny. Inland parcels by may be registered." It was also indicated that a Cash on Delivery Service was available in connection with inland parcels (figs.20-21).

Cash on Delivery Service This service operated within the Union, South West Africa, Basutoland, Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland. It provided for the delivery by the Post Office of parcels and the collection and transmission to senders of the amounts due. A fee of 1s. in addition to the usual parcel rates was charged for parcels,

which amounts up to £1 had to be collected, and 3d. for each additional £1 or part thereof (fig.22).

Agricultural Parcel Post The agricultural parcel post provided facilities for the transmission, within the Union and Basutoland, at a reduced rate of postage, of primary products of the soil, horticultural products, dairy produce and foodstuffs produced within the Union.

Telegraph Services The following types of telegrams were available in the Post Office:

Ordinary Telegrams in a plain language, Urgent Telegrams, Code Telegrams (CDE), Cypher Telegrams, Greetings Telegrams, Good News Telegrams and 'De Luxe' Telegrams (fig. 23).



Fig.9: Post Office stall at the Pretoria Agricultural Show in August 1935 (Source: *The Post office 1910-1935*, p.128).

Fig.10: Special date stamp used at the Post Office Rand Ideal Homes exhibition in Johannesburg in 1934. (Source: Hasso Reisener, Joubert collection).



Fig. 11: Example of souvenir post card that was handed out free of charge to advertise the airmail service.



Fig.13: An example of the souvenir post card that was handed out free of charge and posted from the Post Office exhibition held in East London on 23 December 1935. (in the Joubert collection).

Above - Fig.12: Special date-stamp used at the Post Office exhibition in Cape Town in 1935. (Source: Hasso Reisener, Joubert collection).

MOBILE POST OFFICES

According to Page, South Africa was the first country in the then British Empire to introduce Mobile Post Offices. The first vehicle was introduced at the end of January 1937. This additional service was in line with the new approach to provide a better service to the public (figs.24 & 25).

In an extract of the Annual Report of the Postmaster General of the Union of South Africa published in April 1937, the following was indicated:

“On 28 January 1937 an arrangement was introduced in Johannesburg which had not been previously tried in South Africa. This was a specially constructed motor-van fitted as a post office to serve residents in the more remote and less densely populated suburbs of the city. This motor-van, officially designated ‘Mobile Post Office No. 1’ daily visits the more distant suburbs of Johannesburg according to the needs of each locality...”.

The Mobile Post Office system was extended and in July 1940 the second Mobile Post Office was put into service also in Johannesburg and on 2 September 1940 Mobile Post Office no. 3 was put into service in Port Elizabeth.



Fig.14: Poster encouraging business people to use the Business Reply Service.

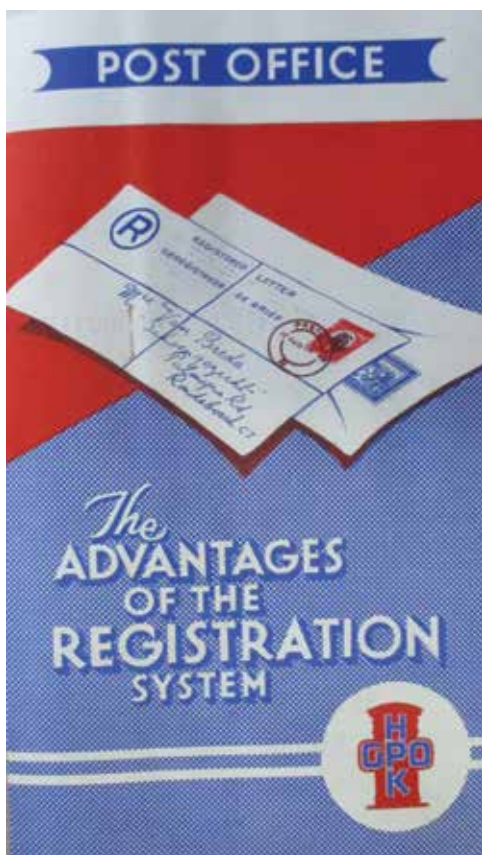


Fig.16: Front page of a booklet explaining the advantages of the registered letter system.

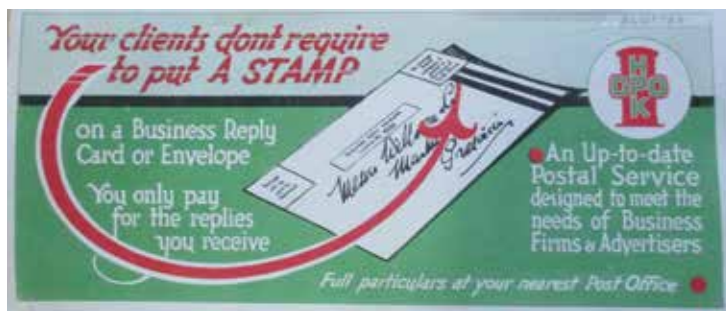


Fig.15: Pamphlet explaining the functioning of the Business Reply Service.

At right, Fig.17: Item registered at INGAGANE (Station) Post Office on 30 June 1934. (Kamfer collection).



CONCLUSION

It can truly be stated that under the positive and visionary leadership of the Minister of Posts, Senator the Hon. C.F. Clarkson OBE, and the Postmaster General, Mr H.J. Lenton, the Union Post Office reached new heights in the 1930s and provided an excellent service to the public. They managed to establish a new brand for the Union Post Office which is reflected by the many innovative ways in which the publicity campaign was conducted.

The positive outcome of all of this was reflected in an article in *The Cape Times* published in November 1936 with the heading: "Out With the Night Mail - The Post Office Never Sleeps" wherein the effectiveness and dedication of the Post Office personnel to timely distribute mail was described.

From a philatelic and postal history point of view these Post Office stationery and publicity pamphlets, documents and booklets forms part of our rich and interesting Post Office history.



Fig.18: Pamphlet advertising the Imperial Reply Coupon for 3d. that could be exchanged in any part of the British Empire and the International Reply Coupon for 5d. that could be exchanged in any part of the world.



Fig.19: Poster advertising Parcel Post system - a wrapped parcel.

Sources:

- Giliomee Herman and Mbenga Bernard, *New History of South Africa*, Tafelberg, Cape Town, 2007.
- Page, W.A., *The Mobile Post Offices of South Africa, The postmarks, registration marks and cachets. 1937- 1983*, Kent, England, 1989.
- Reisener, Hasso, *The Special and Commemorative Postmarks, Cachets and Covers of South Africa, 1892-1975*, Pretoria, 1975.
- The Post Office Museum Archives, Silverton, Pretoria.
- Union of South Africa, Post Office Services, Government Printer, Pretoria, 1939.
- Union of South Africa, The Post Office, 1910-1935. The Postmaster-General's Annual Report 1934-1935, embodied in a Résumé of Developments since the year 1910, Government Printer, Pretoria, 1935.

Fig.20: Parcel posted at the 2d rate from Lady Grey in October 1933.



Fig. 24: Mobile Post Office no. 1 date stamp. (Source: Page, W.A., *The Mobile Post Offices of South Africa*)



Fig.21: Afrikaans Poster advertising Parcel Post Service.

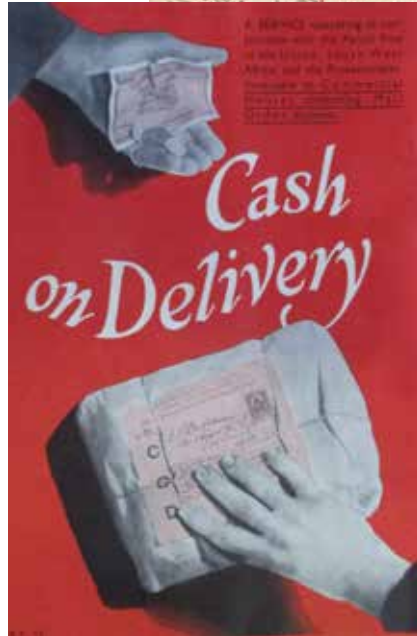


Fig.22: Poster advertising the Cash on Delivery system with the inscription (top right): "A Service operating in conjunction with the Parcel Post in the Union, SWA and the Protectorates".



Fig.23: Pamphlet to advertise 'Christmas and New Year Greetings Telegrams' at a cost of only 9d for 12 words.

Fig. 25: The first mobile post office van used in Johannesburg painted with the legend "Post Office" plus the GPO Pillar Box symbol and advertising "all classes of Post Office business transacted" – "Here daily at the same hour", in English and Afrikaans. This vehicle remained in use from 25 January 1937 until 31 January 1939.



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A closer look at MODERN STAMPS *Philately for Fun*

by Moira Bleazard, East Rand Philatelic Society



MY BIG FAT JEWISH WEDDING !

(Apologies to the film with the similar name!)

There can be no wedding without *Amor, Liebe, Lubire* - Love in any language – followed by a courtship (Figs.1-3). Plans are made and invitations sent out (Figs.4 & 5). That was in the days before we had postal strikes and the internet! A dress must be chosen and flowers coordinated – white roses being a traditional favourite (Figs.6 & 7).

tradition is first mentioned in the *Apocrypha*, in the *Book of Tobit*: “And they inscribed these matters in a book, then they ate, drank and blessed the L-rd”. After months of planning, at last the big day dawns... According to Jewish custom, there is even a special day on which to conduct a wedding - *Av 15*, i.e. during the



Fig.8: An illuminated Ketubah from Morocco whose text reads: “A woman of worth, who can find? Her price is above rubies”

A central part of the proceeding is known in Hebrew/Aramaic as *kiddushin*, meaning ‘sanctification’ – an expression of the sacred bond forged between the bride and

groom. The prophets and later the rabbis used the term to describe the relationship between G-d and the people of Israel, Israel and the Torah, Israel and the Sabbath. The eleventh month of the year in the Jewish calendar. This was a holiday celebrated by dancing, and all unmarried maidens dressed in white garments, danced in the vineyard; whoever did not have a wife sought one there. In nature, this day also marked the beginning of the harvest of the summer crops and the grapes were picked for wine-making (Fig.9).

The clothes may be different from ages past, but the marriage ceremony is still based on old traditions and is associated with more customs than any other ceremony in Judaism (Fig.10).

The clothes may be different from ages past, but the marriage ceremony is still based on old traditions and is associated with more customs than any other ceremony in Judaism (Fig.10).



Fig.10: Josef Israels’ beautiful painting of ‘A Jewish Wedding’. Note the keen observation of real experience, borrowed from French Realism, while the mysterious treatment of light and shade brings to mind the genius of Rembrandt.



Figs.1-3: The romance and courtship begins...



Fig.4: Families meet to discuss the details.

Marriage contracts have been around for a long time; known as dowries, lobola, antenuptials and today even the ‘pre-nup’ (for celebrities, who fear the union may be short-lived and end in expensive tears). In Jewish societies there is the *Ketubah*. In ancient times the marriage ceremony was performed in public in the presence of the elders of the congregation and was the occasion for a feast.

There was no need for a document to prove to the community that the couple was living together in accordance with the law, as this was self-evident.

However, over time, there was a general consensus that a legal sanction for the marriage act was required and the *Ketubah* was born (Fig.8).

It is a certificate that protects the woman’s rights, status and property and also incorporates the obligation of the groom towards his bride to supply all her needs in their future life together. The



Fig.5: Invitations go out...



Figs.6 & 7: A dress and flowers are chosen. A ceremonial costume from Morocco, ornate enough for a wedding....

Beneath the wedding canopy, in the presence of witnesses, the groom places a ring (Fig.11) on the forefinger of the bride’s right hand (later transferred to the left ring finger) and the two are pronounced man and wife. The sentence that finalises the marriage is recited by the groom: “Behold, you are consecrated to me with this ring according to the Law of Moses and Israel”.

The *Ketubah* is signed and handed to the bride, seven benedictions are recited and the groom smashes a glass (Fig.12), a sign of mourning for the destruction of Jerusalem that occurred thousands of years ago.



Fig.9: Self-adhesive stamp booklet featuring the months of the year.



Fig.11: An unadorned golden engagement ring and an additional ring on a background of a Ketubah. The stamp represents the Mishnah Order (Oral Law) of Nashim (women), and relates to the relationship between a man and his wife

In some communities, the pieces of shattered glass are believed to bring good fortune, so the glass is carefully wrapped in cloth before breaking, to ensure not a fragment is lost.

Today the groom breaks the glass by stamping on it with his foot, but in books of customs from 16th Century Germany, there are descriptions of the groom smashing the glass against a special 'marriage stone' in the upper part of the synagogue wall (Fig.13). Such stones were usually carved in the shape of a star with 'horns

of plenty' and inscribed with the initial letters of the Hebrew verse: "The sound of mirth and gladness, the voice of bridegroom and bride" (Jeremiah 7:34)

Then it is time for champagne and congratulations – Mazal Tov! (Figs.14 & 15).

Fig.13: A Marriage Stone depicting two 'horns of plenty' flanking an eight-pointed star and initial letters of the Bible verse. Affixed to the southern wall of the 18th Century Bingen Synagogue, Germany until 1832



REFERENCES:

Stamp information booklets Numbers 126, 224, 519, 604, 656,733 & 947 - courtesy of Israel Post Ltd.



Fig.12: The groom breaks the glass under the canopy



Figs.14 & 15: Champagne corks pop and the celebrations begin... Mazal Tov!



DAVO STAMPALBUMS

South African Distributor
Peter Bale
 Peter Bale Philatelics
 email: balep@iafrica.com
 cell: +27823303925

Full Davo Range Available

GUESS THE STAMP

Try your hand at identifying this pixelated* image - Guess correctly - send your answer to the Editorial Board and you stand to WIN a stationery hamper!

WHAT IS THIS?

The December issue stamp fitted the occasion and once again a response from Peter Miller who guessed the 70c Christmas candles SACC 973. "I suspected that a 'christmassy' theme would be this month's quiz! All a bit of fun." Thank you Peter Miller - this issues winner and the first correct entry drawn

NOW GUESS WHAT THIS IS?

*it's an image that is filtered so that the viewer sees the individual pixels that form the image, which is stylised, having reached the point at which no further detail can be resolved.

Send your answer to janice@gdb.co.za by 12th MARCH 2017

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South African Stamp Issues

by Robin Messenger, South African Stamp Study Circle

21 October 2016 – SOUTH AFRICAN BIOSPHERES:

Promoting sustainable development.

Biospheres are natural biomes established by countries and recognised under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme.

Denominations: 6 x Standard Postage (R3.60)

Designer: Hein Botha, depicting the following biospheres:

Top row 'Cape Winelands' and 'Waterberg';

Middle row 'Cape West Coast' and 'Kruger and Canyons';

Bottom row 'Kogelberg' and 'Vhembe'.

Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp sizes: 65 x 26mm

Gum: Self adhesive

Sheetlet size: 166 x 152mm comprising the 6 different designs arranged in 3 rows of 2.

Quantity: 15,000 sheetlets

Cylinder numbers: 8492 (blue), 8493 (red), 8494 (yellow) and 8495 (black).

Perforation: Die-cut simulated. Stamps are separated by 8mm gutters in the centre of which are roulettes to aid separation of the individual stamps. These roulettes extend to the left, right and bottom margins of the sheetlet and also through the backing paper.

Phosphor: Yellow-green, 3mm band along top margin and 4mm over 'SOUTH AFRICA' at left of each stamp.

Printing sheet size: Not yet seen.

First Day Covers: Nos. 8.98 and 8.99 of standard size (190 x 102mm). NOT YET AVAILABLE.

Canceller: No. 8.87 – '21-10-2016/FRANSCHHOEK'.

31 October 2016 – 40th IHF WORLD HOSPITAL CONGRESS

Denomination: 1 x International Small Letter (R8.40)

Designer: Thea Clemons

Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp sizes: 30 x 30mm incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 75mm square.

Gum: PVA

Quantity: 10,000 miniature sheets

Perforation: Gauge 14 extending through left and right margins of miniature sheet.

Cylinder numbers: None

Paper: Tullis Russell gummed stamp paper, 103gsm, phosphor coated

Printing sheet size: Not yet seen.

First Day Cover: None

Canceller: No. 8.88 – 'DURBAN · 31.10.2016'.

24 November 2016 – SMILE SOUTH AFRICA ! ORAL HEALTH AWARENESS

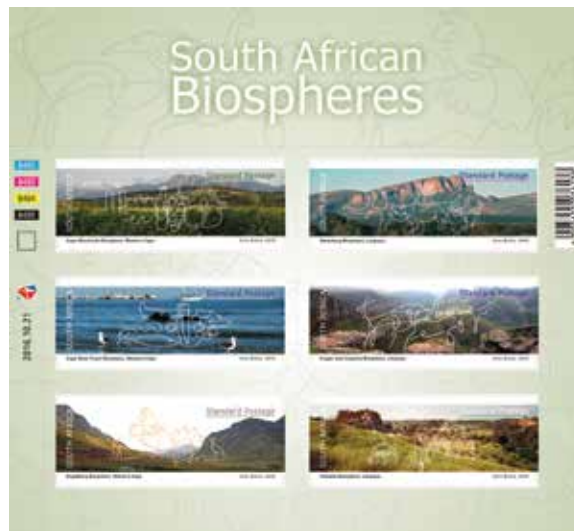
Denomination: 1 x International Small Letter (R8.40)

Designer: Rachel-Mari Ackermann

Printer: Southern Colour Print, Dunedin, New Zealand

Process: Offset lithography.

Stamp sizes: 30 x 30mm incorporated in a miniature sheet of size 75mm square.



Gum: PVA

Quantity: 10,000 miniature sheets

Perforation: Gauge 14 extending to bottom margin of miniature sheet.

Cylinder numbers: None

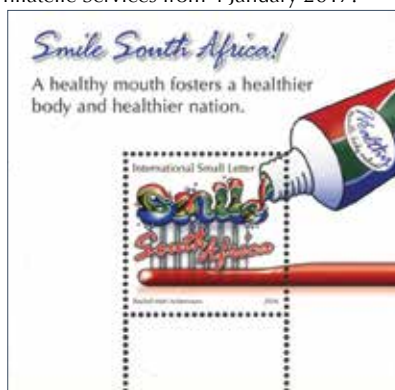
Paper: Tullis Russell gummed stamp paper, 103gsm, phosphor coated

Printing sheet size: Not yet seen

First Day Cover: No. 8.102 of standard size

Canceller: No. 8.90 – '24-11-2016 / Cape Town'.

Note: The issue dates quoted above are the intended dates of issue but these stamps were only available at Philatelic Services from 4 January 2017.



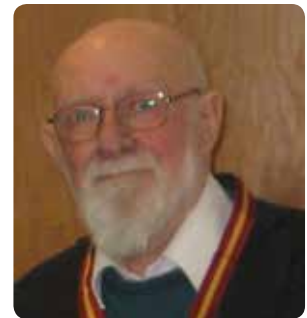
Acknowledgement: Information collated from the electronic edition of *SETEMPE* (Vol 21 No 3 September – December 2016), together with personal observations. The images shown above are of original artwork, supplied by courtesy of Thea Clemons of Philatelic Services, and may differ slightly from the issued stamps.

OBITUARY

ALAN DRYSDALL

RDP, RDPSA, FRPSL

23 May 1933 - 11 January 2017



Southern African Philately has lost one of its finest supporters; after a short illness Alan Drysdall has passed away at the age of 83. He was a keen collector of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland Field Force, Transvaal and Southern Africa Railways.

After completing his doctorate in 1957, Alan took up an appointment with Her Majesty's Colonial Service as a geologist with the Geological Survey of Northern Rhodesia. He, together with his wife and two children, was based in Lusaka for the next 18 years. Those years saw the demise of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at the end of 1963, and the emergence of the Republic of Zambia.

In the early 1960s Alan became a born-again philatelist, collecting the stamps of east, central and southern Africa. He began writing articles for publication and Robson Lowe published his first book on the stamp issues and postal history marking the transition of Northern Rhodesia from the Federation back to Protectorate status and finally to the Republic of Zambia.

After Alan retired, he dedicated his time to philately and was one of the most prolific writers of his time. He published a number of new books and more than 200 articles, including significant contributions to *The London Philatelist*. He was the editor of, and a major contributor to, *The Transvaal Philatelist* for the last 15 years, as well as editor of *The Natal & Zululand Post*, since it was first published in 1997. He had been Vice-Chairman of the Rhodesian Study Circle since 1996 and in 2006 he was elected honorary President of the Transvaal Study Circle.

Alan was an early recipient of the Manfred Weinstein Memorial Medal awarded by the PFSA for research and literature, as well as the Skinner Cup for his work as Editor of *The Transvaal Philatelist*.

He was one of the few to be invited to sign two Rolls of Honour as a Distinguished Philatelist - in 1995 in Alberton, South Africa (RDPSA) and in 2003 in the UK (RDP)

A giant of Southern African philately, Alan may you R.I.P.

Acknowledgements: SPINK and Otto Peetoom, 14 Jan. 2017.

The OVS 'POST-KANTOO' Cachets

by Kevin Price (Australia), Orange Free State Study Circle



No, your eyes do not deceive you -- this truly is a misspelling of Postkantoor on an official seal, as you can see on the images in this article. My first introduction to these eye-catching cachets occurred when I purchased AGM Batten's 1973 book *More about the Postmarks of the Orange Free State and the Orange River Colony 1868-1910*. On pages 118 and 119 of this book Batten illustrates a Reddersburg cachet on a postcard together with a Wepener cachet on the back of a cover explaining that only four types of mark had been seen up to that time -- those having the name of Bloemfontein, Reddersburg, Rouxville and Wepener on them. They are a heraldic-type 34mm cachet containing the OVS arms with POST-KANTOO and post office name at the top and ORANJE-VRY STAAT below. Why the spelling error? I believe these very attractive cachets were probably made overseas and the hand-written KANTOOR was most likely mistaken as KANTOO. They have been seen as a postal canceller on postcards, on the back of a cover, on revenue stamps and used philatelically in 1900. This article will discuss the purpose of these marks and as they do not have provision for a date I will describe them as cachets, not 'cancellers'.

Up to the present day this cachet has now been reported used from 1884 with the names of nine post offices at the top -- Bethanie, Bethlehem, Bloemfontein, Ladybrand, Philippolis, Reddersburg, Rouxville, Wepener and Winburg (Some are shown in figs. 10-16). Note that no postal agency names have been described. The earliest example reported (fig.1) was that of one that was struck on a sheet described as "The 1884 Proof and Sample Impressions of the Datestamps and Handstamps available at Bloemfontein Post Office". As it appeared on a post office document together with twelve other datestamps and instructional marks used at Bloemfontein it would seem that these cachets were issued for official use by the postmasters.

A fellow member of the Orange Free State Study Circle, Erland Hansen, has a clear Bethanie cachet used on the top of the front page of an informative letter written in 1887 (fig.2). Unfortunately, there is no associated cover and this is the only cachet ever reported as being used other than on mail or revenue stamps. The letter is written in German and the translation follows:



Fig.1

Dear Mother

17 November 1887

In vain I have waited for a letter from you amongst all the mail arriving here from the Colony. I should have received an answer to my letter from the 1st September before now. Why don't you answer your mail immediately? The £10 we sent you on 20th October should have arrived at about the same time as this letter, hopefully before your birthday. How are you now? As soon as you confirm that everything arrives on time and intact I shall send you some more.

We are all well here, except my weight is increasing. I must close for now, because I can hear the Postman's Horn.

Greetings from my heart.

Your Martin



Fig.2

As the writer (Martin) has used the Bethanie cachet as a letterhead on a private letter, this shows the importance of this cachet in Martin's life and suggests to me that he was the postmaster at Bethanie at this time. Further circumstantial evidence occurs in the first sentence where he states he was waiting for a letter "amongst all the mail arriving here from the Colony", which implies he worked in a large post office. In the last sentence he states "I must close now, because I can hear the Postman's Horn", which I feel is either an allusion that he has to get back to his

important work as the postmaster or that the postal coach had just arrived. OVS post office regulations at this time stated that the postal coach had to announce its arrival and departure by blowing the posthorn. I believe that the contents of this letter likely point to Martin being the postmaster of Bethanie in November 1887 and that he used the Bethanie cachet here as an indication of his important position within the local community.

As mentioned in the first paragraph, a Wepener cachet was shown on the back of a cover in Batten's book. Both the front and the back of this cover feature in figs. 3 and 4. The cover is official post office stationery that was addressed to the postmaster at Wellington in the Cape from the Wepener post office and is

initialled E.W.C. on the front, this person probably being the postmaster. It travelled north to BLOEMFONTEIN APL 5 1887 where it was placed on the Cape Travelling Post Office, or TPO, AP 10 87 UP which would have carried it south to its destination. This is definitive evidence that the POST-KANTOO cachet was used as a seal by post office personnel.

The cachet has also been utilised in other situations. On page 251 of a new book by Robert Allison, RDPSA, *The Postal History of the Orange Free State 1830-1910*, he shows an example of the Ladybrand cachet (fig.5) used on an 18d green embossed revenue stamp. As the Landdrost or his clerk often undertook the position of postmaster, in this example they have inadvertently used this cachet instead of the oval Landdrost cachet or the usual datestamp that would normally be employed to cancel revenue stamps.

Most of these attractive cachets have been seen on postcards impressed over the stamp in place of the normal bland date stamp of the day. This is illustrated by the Winburg cachet (fig.6) where it has been placed on a 1/2d provisional postcard dated 7 December 1892 with a message for a person that lives in Winburg informing them of the date of the first stock and cattle market for 1893. The indistinct Rouxville cachet (fig.7) has also been placed on a 1/2d provisional postcard dated 7 August 1891 with a message for the recipient (who also resides in Rouxville) to meet up. As these postcards were not

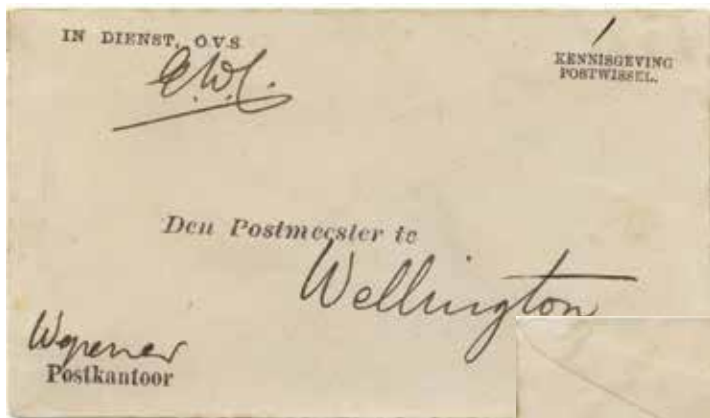


Fig.3 (above)

at right Fig.4

intended to pass through the normal post office channels, but to reside in their posting offices until picked up by the local residents, perhaps these heraldic cachets were impressed by the postmaster as a favour to friends. Of course, no postal officials outside these post offices would know that a bona fide dated canceller had not been used on this mail -- only the local sender, local postmaster and local recipient.



Fig.5



Fig.6

The illustration (fig.8) of a 1/2d provisional postcard addressed to the ZAR actually does show an example of the Bethanie cachet that travelled through the normal mail, although not as a canceller. The postcard was uprated to 1d and left BETHANIE 12 MY 96 with the Bethanie cachet applied on the front and the back. It travelled through JOHANNESBURG 13 MEI 96 Z.A.R. and arrived MIDDELBURG 14 MEI 96 Z.A.R. The message (which follows) is in German and appears to mention the well-known missionary, Sandrock, that perennial writer of postcards (fig.9).



Fig.7



Fig.8

Dear Lieschen

Bethanie, 11.5.96

Today I write a few quick words before your birthday. I am very sorry as I haven't written before. I had no time as there are so many things to do here. I have my next teaching on 27, 28, 29. Uncle Sandrock and Gustel have sent a letter to say they have already arrived in England. Send greetings to Lenchen and my teacher Mr. Schurl and Anna. Dear Lieschen I must now end my writing. Give greetings to your dear parents for me.

Your friend Max

This message does not suggest that the writer (Max) is a post office employee as he does 'teaching', so the cachet was probably applied as a favour to him after the appropriate postage rate was paid and the postcard cancelled per regulations.

Lastly, Batten describes a faint black and white illustration on page 31 of his 1983 book *The Orange Free State, Pages from a Postmark Collection*. This shows a purely philatelic use of eight impressions of the Bethlehem cachet on an undated cover with nine stamps of the OFS and Transvaal issued between March and June 1900. It is likely that a British soldier used the cachet to cancel these colonial stamps as a form of souvenir of the war.

In summary, this evidence shows that these very attractive uncommon cachets were prepared from around 1884 for the use of postmasters on their official correspondence.

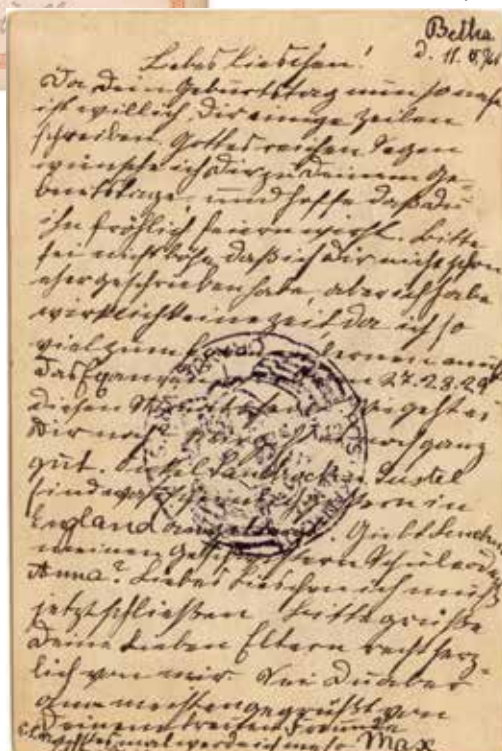


Fig.9



Fig.10.



Fig.11.



Fig.12.



Fig.13.

Because of their eye-catching heraldic design though they were occasionally used to cancel prepaid postcards destined only for local delivery and were infrequently used to cancel revenue stamps and sometimes used for philatelic purposes.

It could very well be that readers might possess unrecorded examples of this curious official cachet from other Orange Free State post offices that were open in 1884, such as Boshof, Edenburg, Fauresmith, Ficksburg, Frankfort, Harrismith, Jacobsdal, Kroonstad, Lindley, Smithfield, Ventersburg or Vredefort. If so, please report them to kevinwprice@bigpond.com and I will acknowledge your discovery in a future update.



Fig.14.



Fig.15.



Fig.16.

References:

- Robert Allison RDPSA, *The Postal History of the Orange Free State 1830-1900*, BPA Expertising Educational Charity, 2015.
- AGM Batten RDPSA, FRPSL, *More About the Postmarks of the Orange Free State and the Orange River Colony 1868-1910*, published privately 1973.
- AGM Batten RDPSA, FRPSL, *The Orange Free State, Pages from a Postmark Collection*, Orange Free State Philatelic Society, 1983.
- DW de Villiers, *The So-Called 'Post Kantoo' Cancellers*, in *The Orange Free State Bulletin* 141, December 1990.
- K Price, *Purpose of those 'Post-Kantoo' Cachets/Cancellers and The Postmasters' Post-Kantoo Cachets*, in *The Orange Free State Bulletins* 228 and 233, September 2012 and December 2013.



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THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS OF 1929: A PHILATELIC RETROSPECT

by Prof. Wilhelm J. Verwoerd, Stellenbosch Philatelic Society



The 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) held in South Africa August 2016 was recognised by the Post Office through an issue of 10 rather funny, cartoon-like representations of some of our most spectacular geological features.

This event recalls the 15th IGC, also hosted by South Africa in the year I was born. According to the *compte rendu* of the Congress a temporary post office “was provided for the convenience of members on the ground floor” of the venue for the meetings which was the double storey extra-mural building of Transvaal University College in Vermeulen Street, Pretoria, which no longer exists. No mention was made of a special date stamp or postal stationery, except that a set (probably scenic views in black and white) of picture post cards “have been specially prepared for the Congress and are on sale in room No. 25 on the first floor.” It would be interesting to learn whether any correspondence from this post office, date-stamped between the opening session on Monday 20 July and the closing session on Wednesday 7 August, has survived. It is also very likely that members who participated in any of the numerous pre- and post-congress geological excursions through the length and breadth of the country would have sent letters and post cards abroad, but none of these have been seen by the author.

The organising committee had special stationery printed for their own use (Fig.1). The circular logo inscribed in Latin *Geologorum Conventus*, together with crossed geological picks and the motto *Mente et Malleo* features prominently, as it has done from at least 1897 (the 7th congress held in Russia) until today, often in the form of a special date stamp or part of the stamp design.

The issue of special stamps, cancellations, FDCs, maxicards (Fig.2) etc. related to IGCs dates from after WW II. The IGC of 1952 was held in Algeria and was only the second one on the African continent.

Bushveld Igneous Complex, represented the Geological Survey of the Union (forerunner of the Council for Geoscience) at the IGC in Spain. (Fig.3,4). During discussions, keen interest was expressed in arranging the next IGC in South Africa with its marvellous gold, diamond, and base metal deposits in addition to Karoo fossils and glaciated pavements. It should be understood that a geological congress is generally much more than a net-working opportunity or an occasion for presenting scientific results: to most participants it is above all a chance to see critical exposures in the field under

expert guidance. It is therefore a big challenge to the host country and may take up to four years of preparation, involving almost every geologist, the government and industry.

Back home, Dr Hall was able to convince his superiors, obtain governmental approval and wide-ranging sponsorship, so that he was appointed General Secretary for the 15th Session of the IGC in 1929.

The Prime Minister, General J.B.M. Hertzog, accepted a position as Honorary President with Dr A.W. Rogers, Director of the Survey, as President. This had quite an interesting corollary. The official languages of the earlier IGCs were French, German and English. At the 14th session in Madrid, Spanish and Italian were added. During a preliminary IGC Council meeting

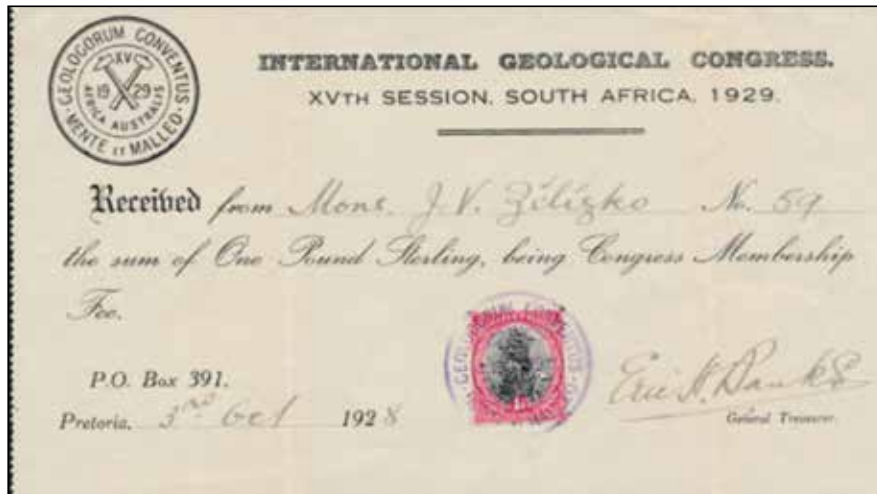


Fig.1: Official receipt with 1d stamp for the £1 registration fee of the 15th IGC, issued by treasurer E.H. Banks to Mr. J.V. Zelizko of Czechoslovakia, who did not attend.

Now for a little more background information. For the geological community of the world (not the general public) the IGC ranks with the Soccer World Cup or the Olympic Games, except that there is no overhead body meddling with the finances or choice of venue. In 1926 Dr A. L. Hall, famous for his fieldwork on the

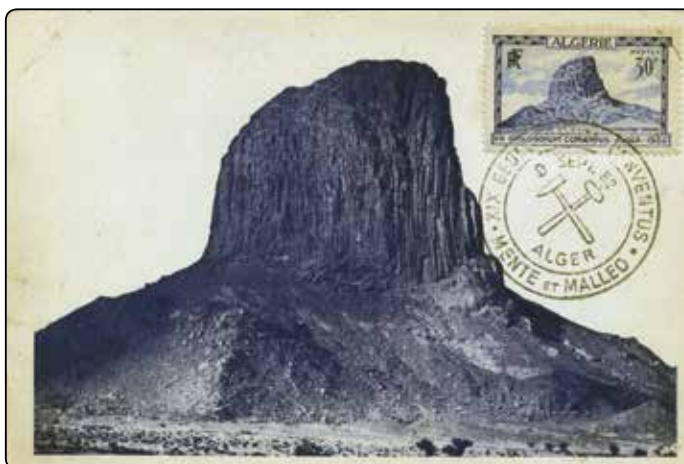


Fig.2: Maxicard of the 19th IGC in Algeria, 1952, illustrating Hoggar phonolite plug or dyke.

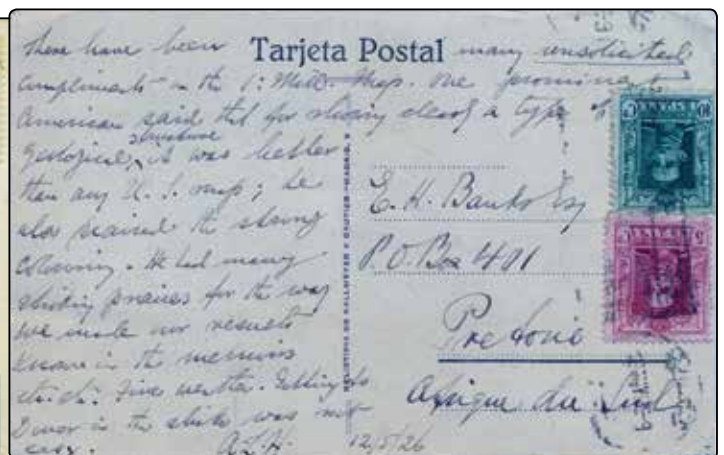


Fig.3: Postcard from Dr. A.L. Hall in Madrid during the 14th IGC (1926) to E.H. Banks, with unsolicited compliments on the latter's draughtsmanship.



Fig.4 Registered cover to Prof (sic) Hall from the famous Russian geochemist A.E. Fersman in Leningrad, dated 22.5.26.

the day before the opening session in Pretoria, "the President proposed the adoption of Afrikaans as an official language for the duration of the XV Session only." The result was that the agenda for the opening session was printed in all six official languages and that the Minister of Mines and Industries, F.W. Beyers, said a few words in Afrikaans.

Nowadays, scientific papers at international conferences are mostly, sometimes exclusively, presented in English. What was the case in 1929? Referring to Volume II of the *compte rendu*, 38% of the 79 published papers were in English, 24% in German, 18% in French, 16% in Italian and 4% in Spanish. The percentages would have been different in other host countries.

As usual there were also several meetings of international commissions and interest groups, apart from dinners and social functions.

South Africa had, and still has, the disadvantage of long distance travel from Europe, America and the Far East, making it expensive for foreign scientists to attend. In 1929 there was practically no air travel and the organising committee went to great lengths to negotiate steamship concessions. If you or an institution wanted to register for the IGC without attending, just to receive the published proceedings and have your name on the list of participants, it would have cost you £1 sterling (Fig.1). By comparison, the figure today is R10,000 (with discounts

for students, pensioners and early registration). Of course, accommodation and excursions are extra.

A series of guide books in English was printed for the 22 geological excursions ranging from 1 to 14 days in duration before, during and after the sessions in 1929. A half day trip up Table Mountain had to be cancelled "owing to the failure of the Table Mountain Cable Railway to be completed on time." People had to make their choice of excursions and some of them were limited to 40, 60 or 80 participants. The longest one was to Southern Rhodesia by train. Excursions to Northern Rhodesia and Belgian Congo (the 'copper belt') and one to South West Africa lasting 14 days, were added to the programme. A detailed report and list of participants was afterwards published for each excursion. The only professional assistance that the organising geologists had in arranging these trips, was by the newly established Tourist and Travel Branch of the South African Railways.

In 1929 the number of registrants was 534, these

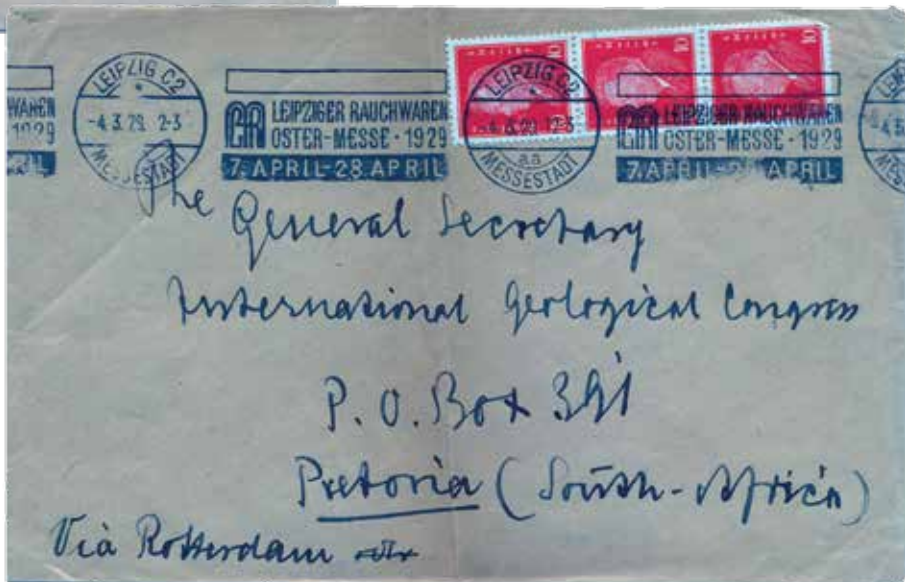


Fig.5: Unregistered cover from Prof K.H. Scheumann, Leipzig, dated 4.3.29 with slogan cancellation advertising fur-trade (Rauchwaren).



Fig.6: Registered cover dated Warszawa 20.11.1929 with red wax seal on reverse of Bank Polski on the back.



Fig.7: Registered cover dated 's Gravenhage (The Hague) 17.VII.1928 with five wax seals of De Twentsche Bank on the back. (Reduced).

days it is between 4,000 and 5,000. Such large numbers can nowadays be accommodated in convention centres; back then it was impossible. Nevertheless, the 15th IGC was not only the first IGC on the continent of Africa, it was also claimed to be "the first truly international gathering of scientific workers" in South Africa. The participants who were actually present numbered 296 of whom 84 were South Africans. The foreigners represented 46 countries from as far as China, Korea and Japan. Among the participants whose names are still well-known today, were Prof G.A.F. Molengraaff (Delft) former state Geologist of the ZAR under President Kruger and pioneer of Bushveld Complex geology, F.E. Suess (Vienna), Hans Cloos (Bonn), Paul Ramdohr (Aachen), H. Schneiderhöhn (Freiburg i.B.), J.A. Bancroft (Northern Rhodesia), F. Dixey (Nyasaland), Paul Niggli (Zürich), N.L. Bowen (Washington D.C.), A.M. Bateman (Yale), F.F. Grout (Minneapolis).

The Treasurer for the 15th IGC was Mr Eric H. Banks, draughtsman, whose name appears on all the early geological maps published by the Geological Survey in Pretoria. It is to him that I owe a depth of gratitude for preserving some of the covers that contained money (probably bank drafts) due to the Organising Committee. (Figs.5, 6, 7). Thirteen such covers were kindly passed on to me a few years ago by his granddaughter.



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Protea Definitive Series. The 3c Control Blocks

by Dr Vic Sorour, Witwatersrand PS



The 3c stamps of the Protea Definitive Series fall into two groups: Group 1 was printed by photogravure and Group 2 by lithography. This article deals only with Group 1 of which there were two issues and the second issue had five printings.. There are at least twenty known control blocks in Group 1 and this can be very confusing for the collector and student of this series.

Control blocks can belong to either Pane A or Pane B and there are three possible perforation combinations:

- i. 2:1 (left margin perforated and a single perforation on the bottom margin)
- ii. 1:1 (single perforation on the left margin and on the bottom margin)
- iii. 0:1 (left margin imperforate with a single perforation on the bottom margin)



Fig. 1. The three perforation types

The most common combination found on the cylinder blocks of the Protea Series is:

- i. 2:1. (Left margin perforated, single perforation bottom margin)
- ii. Sheet numbers odd on Pane A (and even on Pane B)

This combination is called the normal. It is much easier to say that the cylinder block shows a normal pattern, than to say the left margin is perforated, the bottom margin has a single perforation and the sheet number on Pane A is odd.

Issue	Print	Suffix	Pane A	Pane B
1	1	-0		
2	1	-0		
	2	-1		
	3	-2		
	4	-3		
	5	-4		

Table 1. Summary of the 3c, Group 1

- It is important to remember that the number of the printing is not the same as the suffix in Issue 2. This occurs because the first printing has the incorrect suffix (-0) instead of (-1). All subsequent printings have a suffix number that is one less than the printing number.
- There is a single perforation on the bottom margin in all the cylinder blocks of Group 1, 3c stamps. This means that the bottom margin can be ignored and we only need to concentrate on the left margin. The left margin can be perforated, have a single perforation or be imperforate.

- All the control blocks in Issue 1 and the 1st and 3rd printings of Issue 2 have a normal pattern.
- All the Pane A control blocks have a normal pattern, except Print 4 of Issue 2.
- The sheet numbers show a normal pattern (odd on Pane A and even on Pane B) in all except Print 4 of Issue 2.

Issue	Print	Suffix	Pane A	Pane B
1	1	-0	Normal	Normal
2	1	-0	Normal	Normal
	2	-1	Normal	
	3	-2	Normal	Normal
	4	-3		
	5	-4	Normal	

Table 2. Summary of the 3c, Group 1 with the normal patterns added in red

- This leaves Prints 2, 4 and 5.
- Prints 2 and 5 are the same. We don't have to concern ourselves with Pane A, we know this has a normal pattern, nor do we have to concern ourselves with the sheet numbers, they are also normal. This leaves the left margin on Pane B which can be imperforate or have a single perforation

Issue	Print	Suffix	Pane A	Pane B
1	1	-0	Normal	Normal
2	1	-0	Normal	Normal
	2	-1	Normal	1:1 or 0:1
	3	-2	Normal	Normal
	4	-3		
	5	-4	Normal	1:1 or 0:1

Table 3. Summary of the 3c, Group 1 Prints 2 and 5 added in red

- Only the fourth printing, suffix (-3) remains. There are eight different cylinder blocks in Print 4. Four in Pane A and four in Pane B. Fortunately the four are identical in both panes. They are:
 - i. Perforated left margin with odd sheet number.
 - ii. Perforated left margin with even sheet number.
 - iii. Single perforation on left margin with even sheet number.
 - iv. Imperforate left margin with even sheet number.

(# numbers)

Issue	Print	Suffix	Pane A	Pane B
1	1	-0	Normal	Normal
2	1	-0	Normal	Normal
	2	-1	Normal	1:1 or 0:1
	3	-2	Normal	Normal
	4	-3	2:1 with odd sheet # 2:1 with even sheet # 1:1 with even sheet # 0:1 with even sheet #	
	5	-4	Normal	1:1 or 0:1

Table 4. Summary of the 3c, Group 1. Print 4 added in red

Summary

The only possible difficulty that can arise is distinguishing between Issue 1 and the first printing of Issue 2. In both cases the dates are the same (10 August 1976) and the suffix is (-0). However, in Issue 1 the Pane Letter is blue while in Issue 2 it is green.



Fig.2. Blue pane letter in Issue 1. Green in Issue 2.

Using Table 4 as a checklist, a collector can easily allocate the control blocks to the correct place and see at a glance what still needs to be sought.

STAMP FAIRS:

All SAPDA run fairs feature 'mini-auctions'. Please note that only the Gauteng and Durban (Bluff) fairs are run by SAPDA - with associated SAPDA control over dealers, and non-SAPDA dealers who also trade within SAPDA rules. The other fairs are run independently by societies. SAPDA views these Fairs as a development and testing source for both new and collector growth.

Western Cape and the KZN Stamp Fairs are run independently.

• PRETORIA STAMP FAIR:

1st Saturday of every month; Denis Adami Hall, Wren St, Queenswood, Pretoria.

Contact: Paul van Zeyl on 076 124 9055.

• TSHWANE EXHIBITIONS:

1st Saturday of every month; Afrikaanse Filatelievereniging Pretoria. At the Denis Adami Hall, Wren Street, Queenswood, Pretoria.

• SANDTON QSA (Auction) FAIR:

3rd Saturday of every month; 433 Maple Road, Kyalami. Contact Kenny Napier: 083 4440249 email: kenny.napier@mweb.co.za (also known as the Kyalami stamp fair).

• KYALAMI STAMP FAIR:

Directions: From the N1: Take the R51 Allandale Rd turn off, drive 4.5km along Allandale Rd towards the Kyalami Race Track (west). At the Race Track turn right on the R55 Kyalami Main Rd - drive 1.6km north to the M71 road to Bryanston. Turn left on to the M71 and drive 2km to Maple Rd. Turn right into Maple Road and drive 1km to the Kyalami Country Club entrance on the right.

• EAST RAND STAMP FAIR:

Last Saturday of all months, except December; at **Edenvale Bowling Club**, located at 6th Ave / 11th Street, Edenvale.

• KZN STAMP FAIR:

Last Sunday of all months, except December. Kloof Country Club, Victory Rd (off Abrey Rd), Kloof. Contact: Beverley McNaught-Davis 031 904 1522, 081 270 2873, email: mcnd@telkomsa.net

• BLUFF STAMP FAIR:

1st Saturday of the month at the N.G. Church Hall, Lighthouse Road, Bluff, Durban, from 08h00 to 13h00. Contact: John Bracey Tel: 031 266 1020 Cell: 079 465 7468 email: bracon@eastcoast.co.za

• DURBANVILLE STAMP FAIR:

Venue: D.R. Church Hall Durbanville - Bergsig, corner of Boland Way & Protea Way. Directions & map available on request. Contact: Ken Joseph or Robert Harm. cell: 028 840 2160 or 072 597 1287.

As usual, a number of dealers are in attendance to sell, buy, evaluate and advise on all aspects of philately, including stamps, envelopes, covers, post cards, correspondences, postal history, revenues, documents & non-fiction books of a historical nature, etc. Dates for 2017: 4 Feb, 4 Mar (auction day), 1 Apr, 6 May, 17 Jun (auction day), 1 Jul, 12 Aug, 2 Sept (auction day), 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec (auction day). (Note: All 1st Saturday of the month except 17th June - 3rd Saturday & 12th Aug - 2nd Saturday.) If you have material for auction, bring it to the Stamp Fair and please mark it clearly with your details.



Venue: Country Club Johannesburg, Napier St, Auckland Park. For info-contact the President: Herbie Schaffler RDPSA 082 722 7604.

Dates for Society Meetings 2017 always on a Wednesday at 20h00

8 February	Invited Exhibitor
8 March	One to Five Page Exhibits
12 April	First Competitive Evening
10 May	Modern Philatelic Exhibits
14 June	Grand Challenge Match
12 July	Open Class Exhibit Evening
9 August	One Frame Evening
13 September	Annual Auction
11 October	Favourite Cover/s
8 November	Second Competitive Evening
6 December	President's Evening and Cocktail Party

Eurocircle Stamp Study

For 2017 in Bishops at Woodmead. The second meeting of each month, except December, is held on the last Wednesday of the month. This is effectively a study group

EDENVALE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets first Saturday of every month at the Edenvale Community Centre at 2pm till 4pm. Meetings consist of club competitions, workshops, themed events and many other fun activities. Membership is varied and mainly consists of general stamp collectors. Light refreshments are served. All are welcome - from the novice to more advanced collectors. Our Facebook page allows club activities to continue 24/7 - search for Edenvale Philatelic Society - all welcome to join.

Contact: Colin Bousfield 082 309 8656

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF JOHANNESBURG



President: Clive Carr, Tel. 011 789 6357. Meetings: 19h30, Third Wednesday of the month, at Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane, Blairgowrie. Exhibit programme for 2017 - A tentative one as there may be changes after the AGM in March:

Feb 15	: Open to all categories
Mar 15	: AGM and invited exhibits
Apr 19	: Anything relating in any way to letters G & H
May 17	: British Commonwealth.
May 31	: 5 th Wed using MS PowerPoint & Social media
June 21	: Mini Exhibits, 1 to 16 pages.
July 19	: Foreign.
Aug 16	: Southern Africa.
Aug 30	: 5 th Wed - Society auction.
Sep 20	: Preview of National Exhibits, World at war and back of the book.
Oct 18	: My favourite (Maximum of 1 frame) and thematic exhibits.

WEST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O.Box 198 Florida Hills 1716. Contact: Andries Nel, 083 269 9374 (Chairman) or Ian Walker (Secretary) Tel: 011 4721161 email: iwalker@vodamail.co.za Meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 19H30 at Panorama Sports Grounds, Cornelius Street, Weltevreden Park.

EAST RAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY

VENUE: The Victorian Secret, corner Russel/ Woburn St, Benoni; last Saturday of each month, at 2:00pm. Contact: Jimmy Mitchell via email: jimmy.hcmitchell@gmail.com

PRETORIA, MPUMALANGA, LIMPOPO

PRETORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:30pm on the first Monday evening of the month at Statech Centre, St. Alban's College, Clearwater Street, Lynnwood Glen.

• Mike Dove (President) 012 348 9393
• Alex Visser (Deputy President & Secretary) 082 922 2927
Monthly newsletter. Specialists on traditional philately, postmarks and postal history.

AFRIKAANSE FILATELIEVERENIGING VAN PRETORIA

Vergader elke 3de Saterdag van die maand by Glen Carpendale se Seelwinkel in Kilnerpark @ 10:00. Klein maar baie aktiewe en produktiewe groepie lede wat gereeld bywoon; konsentreer veral ook op tematies en oop versamelings. Nuusbrief 'Die Posduif' verskyn elke maand.

POLOKWANE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meets every last Tuesday of the month, Contact: Peter Gutsche, PO Box 11933, Bendor Park 0713. Tel 083 276 1124. email: pmgutsche@mweb.co.za.

CENTURION STAMP CLUB

This society is for the 'morning glories' who do not wish to travel at night. Meetings on 2nd Friday of every even month (June, August, October etc) at the Dutch Reformed Church, Wierdapark South, Centurion. Concentrate on African countries, and a letter of the alphabet just for fun (one-page).

THEMATICS SA PRETORIA CHAPTER

Meeting 1st Saturday of each month at the Adami Stamp Fair @ 10:15. Vibrant & active group of attendees - lots of expertise amongst them.

Smalls

'Small' advertisements are accepted from Federation affiliated members at no charge. Ads can be inserted for two consecutive issues. Maximum 30 words. Material must be typed or printed for clarity, and the home society of the advertiser indicated. (Not necessarily for publication). Dealers and non-affiliated advertisers will be charged for classified advertisements at the rate of R50 per column cm per issue. Copy should be sent timeously - see page 39 box for deadlines and addresses. In all instances insertions will be at the discretion of the Committee.

WANTED: A Belgian philatelist is looking for used stamps from South Africa, willing to exchange stamps from Belgium, France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Spain, Italy, ... other countries in Europe, Canada, Australia. Contact Guy Barbé via email: guybarbe@yahoo.fr

EXCHANGE: Italian/Canadian collector, including exchanges FD covers SA used stamps. Contact: Vittorio Zanoncelli. 20 St Marks Road, Southernwood, East London, 5201 Zanoncelli@telkomsa.net

EXCHANGE: As captain of the fire brigade station of Fire & Rescuers of Slovak Republic, fire prevention is not only his job but his hobby. Keen to share material with those interested in South African Fire & Rescue Service in philately collecting, stamps, FDCs, postcards, as well as natural disasters. Email: hreno.drahos@gmail.com

LOCAL EVENTS & SOCIETY NEWS

Exhibition news invited for all future local events

BELLVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Monthly meeting, 2nd Wednesday. Auditorium of the Bellville Library, Charl van Aswegen Road, Bellville. Meetings start at 19h00 to 21h00. Meetings consists of club cup competitions, workshops and fun evenings where specific themes selected for the evening. Members from other societies are regularly invited. *Chairperson:* Wobbe Vegter; 072 425 6301; wvegter@xsinet.co.za *Secretary:* Reanie de Villiers; 082 567 0353; philately@netpoint.co.za
website: <http://bellvillephilatelic.tripod.com>
Contact the Secretary for Programme details.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CAPE TOWN

Meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 8.00pm at the Athenaeum, Camp Ground Road, Newlands. Visitors are always welcome. *Contacts:* Mary Rogers 0729461767 or 021 5582662. Andrew McLaren 0737542856. 021 6844361 (work).

STELLENBOSCH FILATELISTEVERENIGING

Meeting – 1st Tuesday of the month at 19:00.
Plek: Biblioteek, La Clémence afree-oord, Webersvalleiweg/Road, Stellenbosch. Ons hou uitstallings, ontvang gassprekers, ervaar praatjies/demonstrasies, monthly newsletters with news on local philatelic activities, Show, Tell and Ask sessions covering all aspects of the hobby of stamp collecting.
Besoekeers altyd welkom.
Visitors always welcome.
Join us. Kom saam of kontak
robharm@mweb.co.za



PAARLSE FILATELISTE Sedert 1951



Die Paarlse Filateliste vergader elke maand op die tweede Donderdag van die maand om 19h30. *Filatelite, seëlversamelaars en besoekers is baie welkom. Vergaderings is baie informeel en daar word lekker gekuier en daar is altyd iets te leer (en te ete). Vir meer inligting oor die program en vergaderplek kontak gerus vir:* Gawie Hugo: 083 956 2410 gawiehugo@gmail.com of Riaan Crafford: 022 4824005 n/u craffies@telkomsa.net

FISH HOEK PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1954 and still promoting philately in the 'Deep South' of the Cape Peninsula. Circa 20 – 30 members and often a few guests gather once a month. FHPS reaches a wider audience on the internet since launching their website. Please have a look and maybe get ideas or inspiration for your own society. The society meets every 1st Tuesday at 19h30 at Civic Centre, Minor Hall, Recreation Road, Fish Hoek. *President:* Brian Franklin email:info.fhps@info.
Secretary: Volker Janssen. *Website:* www.fhps.info FHPS



DE POSBOOM FILATELIE VERENIGING

Tweede Maandag van elke maand om 7m Posbus10647. Danabaai. 6510. Jaarlikse Algemene Vergadering: November.



President: Jack Visser 082 332 5353.
Tel / Faks: 044 6903030
epos: jackvisser@telkomsa.net
Sekretaresse: Gerrie Conradie
082 952 6700
Tel / Faks 044 6981074.
epos: gajcon@gmail.com

PORT ELIZABETH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

President: Francois Friend. Cell: 082-554 8900 francois@softchem.co.za
• Dave Brown (*Vice President*). 041 360 4025.
• Rodney Maclachlan (*Secretary Treasurer*)
072 619 5409. P.O Box 15558, Emerald Hill 6011
Society meets at Bible Society House
31 Cotswold Ave, Cotswold.
MEETINGS always on Monday evenings:
starting time for monthly meetings 19h00
2017 dates: 6 Feb, 6 March, 3 April,
8 May, 5 June, 3 July, 7 Aug, 4 Sept,
2 Oct, Venue not available 6/11/17
30 October, 4 December.



EAST LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Meetings: 4th Thursday of the month at 19h30. Berea Gardens, The Heritage Hall, 70 Jarvis Rd. Berea East. *Contact:* Dave McWilliams: 043 748 1378, Cell 082 898 7082.
email davehmcwil@lantic.net
Secretary: J.Muller. Tel 043 721 0327.

MASHONALAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY HARARE ZIMBABWE

Meetings - 9am, 3rd Saturday monthly at the Orchid Society Hall, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Hillside Road (off Glenara Avenue South), Harare. Stamp displays, talks, advice, auctions, swopping and socialising. *Contact:* Mike Fox, tallyho@mango.zw landline 495408; cellphone 0772 376994

OFS PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Society meets every fourth Friday of the month, (except December), at 19h15 at the museum of the Boer Republics in Memorium Road, Bloemfontein.

HIBISCUS COAST PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Louise Oswin Residence, 1 Beach road Southport 4230. PO Box 228. Anerley 4230. *Meetings:* 3rd Saturday of the month at 14h00. *Contact:* Noel Lavery: 039 695 1642, Cell 082 440 5501. email noel@accessweb.co.za *Secretary:* Louise Oswin. Tel 039 681 3265 cell 079 505 6044 email: oswin@telehost.co.za

Study Groups

EUROCIRCLE STAMP STUDY

Meetings in the Captain's Table at Woodmead - last Wednesday of each month at 20h00 (except December). 2017 Dates: 22 February, 29 March, 26 April, 31 May, 28 June, 26 July, 30 August, 27 Sep, 25 October, 29 November.

TBVC STUDY GROUP

Contact: Chairperson: Jan de Jong. 011 839 2031 djhome@iburst.co.za. *Secretary:* Eugene du Plooy; editor of the Newsletters TBA. Meeting 1st Saturday of the month at 09:15am at the Adami Stamp Fair in Pretoria. email: eugene@umalusi.org.za
PO Box 8727, Centurion 0046.

RSA SEËLSTUDIEGROEP

Vergader elke 2^{de} Woensdag van elke onewe maand (Januarie, Maart, Mei, Julie ens) by Filateliedienste in Silverton. Doen uitstekende studie en navorsing en publiseer 'n gereelde maandelikse nuusbrief, 10vm.

SOUTH AFRICAN STAMP STUDY CIRCLE

Meetings: First Saturday of month at 13h00 at the Thornhill Manor Retirement Village Hall, Modderfontein. *Contact:* Secretary, Keith Perrow o83 379 2626, email: keith.perrow232@gmail.com

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF KWA-ZULU NATAL

Meetings are now held at the Classic Motorcycle Club, 137 Tara Road, Bluff, Durban at 10h00 on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Contacts: Ted Brown (*President*) 083 284 6554 Zbigniew Kawecki (*Vice-President*) 0829686888
Email zeptepi@3i.co.za Trevor Harris (*Secretary*) 082 377 8465 Kraft von Aulock (*Treasurer*) 031 2629162
'Stamp Exhibitions' with a theme of what to do and what not to do to achieve success...

All are welcome!



HIGHWAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

HPS, Durban, Meets at the German Club, Barnham Road, off Essex Terrace, Westville. 09h00 – 11h30 every second Saturday of the month. Open invitation to other Philatelic Societies and interested visitors. Youth encouraged to attend. 'Theme' Exhibits & Frames by Members, Instructive Talks and general networking. Free entrance and teas/coffees available. Safe parking. German Restaurant open for lunch. The Committee encourages past and new visitors /youth to come and get involved in this wonderful social hobby.
President: Ian McMurray. ianjarvismcm@gmail.com
Secretary: Bev Chittenden, bev@natalaircon.co.za
Membership: Barry Livsey, livsey@netsolutions.co.za
Bev McNaught-Davis, telephone: 031 904-1522 or 081 270-2873.



Established in 1924

MARITZBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The Club meets on the third Monday of every month at 16h00. The venue is St Mathews Parish Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, Hayfields, Pietermaritzburg
The Thematics Group meets on the first Saturday of every month at 09h00. Venue: 'Bumcree' 26 Maud Avenue, Scottsville. *The Executive Committee* meets on the first Saturday of every month at 11h00. Venue: 'Bumcree' 26 Maud Avenue, Scottsville
President: Fred Handman. 033 239 5684. email: fredhm@iafrica.com 083 661 4210.
Treasurer: Heather Wyllie.
Secretary: Aubrey Bowles. 082 558 0283. email: burncree45@telkomsa.net *Publicity and Monthly Newsletter, information on Society activities can be obtained from Aubrey Bowles.*

- Membership Secretary - Ron Buchel
- Circuit Book Manager - Gordon Bennett
- Club Competitions and Speakers - Tony Evans
- Catering Officer - Val De Jager
- Library Assistant - Joyce Hulse
- New Members - Julia Evans
- New Stamp Issues - Mike O'connor
- Liaison Officer - Dave Wyllie
- Librarian (Ad Hoc Committee Member) - Graham Bruce

International Philatelic Events

30 March - 2 April 2017
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Stamp Exhibition

Commissioner: Andrew Fischer





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